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ADVENTURE COMICS®

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NO. 498
APRIL

A LEGION SIZZLER! SUN BOY LOSES HIS POWERS AND POSSIBLY HIS... LIFE!

A LEGION EXTRA! THE ORIGIN of BOUNCING BOY!

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ADVENTURE COMICS®

CARL GAFFORD/NICOLA CUTI: Co-Editors

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IT IS MERELY AN OLD *DESK TOP*, CARVED OF OAK AND WORN WITH THE PASSING YEARS, BUT SPRAWLED ACROSS ITS MARRED AND POLISHED SURFACE IS AN OPENED *FOLDER* FILLED WITH PHOTOS AND CLIPPINGS AND CERTAIN FACTS THAT MAY WELL SPELL THE UNTIMELY *END* OF THE SHAPE-SHIFTING SLEUTH CALLED...

PLASTIC MAN

CREATED BY: *Jack Cole*

GENTLEMEN, WE ARE CONVENED HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS A MOST UNUSUAL AND *URGENT*-- MATTER...

...THE *BETRAYAL* OF THIS NOBLE ORGANIZATION BY THE AGENT-KNOWN AS *PLASTIC MAN!*

PLASTIC MAN

THEY'RE BACK! THE IMPROBABLE *PLAS* AND HIS SIDEKICK, THE WOEBEGONE *WOOZY WINKS*, COURTESY OF...

LEN WEIN	JOE STATON & BOB SMITH	GENE D'ANGELO	BEN ODA	PAUL LEVITZ
WRITER	ARTISTS	COLORIST	LETTERER	EDITOR

IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY, ON A STREET MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER, STANDS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE *NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION*...

NBI

HERE CAN BE FOUND THE OFFICES OF THE TOP-SECRET *D.I.P.*--

--WHERE A MEETING OF THE *UTMOST IMPORTANCE* IS ABOUT TO *BEGIN*...

BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO THE SPECIFIC *REASON* FOR THIS MEETING, I SUPPOSE WE OUGHT TO GET ALL THE *MANDATORY BACKGROUND INFORMATION* OUT OF THE WAY!

BE IT HERE NOTED THAT THE AGENT CODE-NAMED *PLASTIC MAN* WAS ONCE KNOWN AS "*EEL*" O'BRIEN, A COMMON CRIMINAL!

D.I.P.

"WHILE ESCAPING DURING A ROBBERY, O'BRIEN WAS *WOUNDED*--

BLAM!

ACID

"--AND ACCIDENTALLY DOUSED WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL *ACID*!

"DAZED, O'BRIEN STAGGERED OUT OF THE CITY-- AND AWAKENED TO FIND HIMSELF IN *RESTHAVEN*, A MOUNTAIN RETREAT!

"THERE, HE FOUND HIS FAITH IN MANKIND *RESTORED*--

"--EVEN AS HE *DISCOVERED*...

GREAT GUNS! I'M STRETCHING LIKE A *RUBBER BAND*!!

THAT *ACID* MUST'VE GOTTEN INTO MY *BLOODSTREAM*-- AND *CHANGED* ME SOMEHOW!

"VOWING TO USE HIS NEW-FOUND POWERS IN THE CAUSE OF *JUSTICE*, O'BRIEN BECAME *PLASTIC MAN*--

"--AND HE HAS MAINTAINED AN ENVIABLE *RECORD*--"

--UNTIL *NOW*!

YES... I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HE MANAGED TO *BUNGLE* THIS LATEST ASSIGNMENT SO *BADLY*!

THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS WHAT WE ARE HERE TO *FIND OUT*!

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"FOR THE RECORD SYNDICATE STOOL-PIGEON CARLTON CANARY A.K.A. YELLOWBELLY HAD AGREED TO TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE--

"--AND PLASTIC MAN WAS ORDERED TO BRING HIM IN ALIVE."

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY WE GET ALL THE BORING ASSIGNMENTS, PLAS!

YEAH--AN' THAT'S ANOTHER THING THAT BOTHERS ME!

ALL TRAINS

WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT, WOOZY! YOU DON'T EVEN BELONG TO THE N.R.I.!

YOU'D THINK AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR 'EM OVER THE YEARS, THEY COULD AT LEAST GIMME AN OFFICIAL BADGE OR SOMETHIN'!

YOU HELP ME GET CANARY TO H.Q. IN ONE PIECE, WOOZ--AND I'M SURE THEY'LL CONSIDER IT.

WE JUST HAVE TO BE ALERT FOR ANYTHING UNUSUAL, CHUM!

THE SYNDICATE DOESN'T WANT CANARY TO "SING" TO US--AND THEIR HIRED KILLERS WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO MAKE CERTAIN HE DOESN'T!

SAVE THE SNAIL DARTER

HMMMM, TRAIN'S UNUSUALLY *CROWDED* FOR THIS TIME OF DAY--

--BUT I THINK I'VE FOUND AN EMPTY *SEAT!*

I--I DON'T LIKE THE *LOOKS* OF THIS!

YOU DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF *ANYTHING!*

'SCUSE ME, YOUR REVEREND-SHIP--DIDN'T MEAN TO *BUMP* YOU.

S'OKAY, ME SON--YOUSE IS *FORGIVEN!*

ARE WE *THERE*, YET?

OKAY, WOOZY-- LET'S *HAVE* IT!

HAVE *WHAT*, PLAS?

THE *WALLET* YOU LIFTED FROM THAT *MINISTER*, THAT'S WHAT!

YOU--UH--MEAN *THIS* LITTLE THING? HONEST, PLAS, HE-- AH--*DROPPED* IT, AN I WAS JUST GONNA-- *HUH?*

HEY, THIS AIN'T A *WALLET*-- IT'S A *GUN!!*

DO TELL!

GOOD LORD! WE'RE *SURROUNDED!!*

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO *DO* IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS!

RIGHT, PLAS --I *FOLLOW* YA!

DON'T *SHOOT!! WE SURRENDER!!*

ACTUALLY, CHUM-- THAT WASN'T *EXACTLY* WHAT I HAD IN *MIND*!

PLEASE-- DON'T *HIT* ME! I'M YOUR *PRISONER*! I'M *ANYONE'S* PRISONER!

HEY-- ANYBODY HERE NEED A *PRISONER*?

PLAS SEEMS TO BE HANDLING THIS MESS JUST FINE BY *HIMSELF*..

..SO I THINK I'LL GET OUT OF HIS WAY!

A GUY COULD GET *HURT* AROUND HERE -- STICKING HIS *NOSE* IN WHERE IT DOESN'T *BELONG*!

HUH-?!?

BOK!

I'M BADLY *OUTNUMBERED*!

NEED SOME SORT OF *EDGE*--!

WOK!

BLAM!

"AND PROVIDENCE SWIFTLY *PROVIDED* ONE--

"--IN THE FORM OF A WILDLY-AIMED GUNSHOT!"

HEY! WHICH IDIOT TURNED OFF THE *LIGHTS*?

"AND WHEN THE LIGHTS SNAPPED BACK ON AGAIN INSTANTS LATER..."

HEY, WHAT THE--?!?

PLASTIC MAN IS--GONE!

BUT WHERE--?!

THAT'S WHAT HIS CHUBBY PAL IS GONNA TELL US!

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, BUTTERBALL?

WHO? ME?

HONEST--I WAS JUST WAITIN' HERE FOR A BUS!

WOOZY--DUCK!!

PLAS!!

THANK HEAVENS!

BIFF!

BOP!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, WOOZY?

NEVER BETTER!

THANKS FOR SAVIN' ME THE TROUBLE OF CLOBBERIN' THOSE GOONS MYSELF!

MY PLEASURE! FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, THEY WON'T BE BOTHERING ANYONE FOR A WHILE!

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS COLLECT CANARY AND--

?

HEY--WHERE IS CANARY ANYWAY?

? ?

GEE, PLAS--I THOUGHT YOU HAD HIM!

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AND I THOUGHT YOU--!

WELL, IF I DON'T HAVE CANARY AND YOU DON'T HAVE HIM...

AN EXCELLENT QUESTION!

...THEN WHERE THE DICKENS IS HE?

AND ONE AGENT PLASTIC MAN SEEMED WHOLLY UNABLE TO ANSWER WHEN HE WAS INTERROGATED EARLIER!

THEN, SINCE CANARY IS STILL AMONG THE MISSING, AND SINCE THIS SORT OF FAILURE CANNOT BE TOLERATED BY THIS ORGANIZATION--

--I'M AFRAID THIS BOARD HAS NO RECOURSE BUT TO DISMISS PLASTIC MAN, EFFECTIVE--!

OKAY-- HOLD IT!

IF YOU GENTS ARE SO ANXIOUS TO FIND CARLTON CANARY, YOU OUGHT TO CHECK YOUR OWN FILES--

--UNDER 'C'... AS IN CAUGHT!

NOW, MR. CANARY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL THESE NICE GENTLEMEN?

ANYTHING ...AND EVERYTHING!

I--I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!

TRY THE BEGINNING!

WELL, I STARTED OUT AS A CHILD!

WHEN I WAS SIX, MY PARENTS SENT ME TO THE STORE--AND WHILE I WAS GONE THEY MOVED AWAY! THEN WHEN I WAS SEVEN, I...

WELL, THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM OCCUPIED FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS!

STILL WAITING, WOOZY?

ONLY ALL MY LIFE, PLAS!

DID YOU TELL 'EM HOW I HELPED YA CAPTURE CANARY?

I DIDN'T *HAVE TO*, WOOZY! THEY ALREADY *KNEW* EVERYTHING!

THEN THIS IS *IT!* THIS TIME THEY'RE GONNA MAKE ME AN *N.B.I. AGENT*--

--AND I'M NOT GONNA TAKE *NO* FOR AN *ANSWER!*

WELL, HE'S BEEN *IN* THERE FOR A FULL *TWO MINUTES* NOW!

OFFHAND, I'D GIVE HIM ANOTHER *FIVE SECONDS*...

...FOUR...

...ONE...

...TWO...

...THREE...

YAAAAAAA!

AH-- RIGHT ON *SCHEDULE!*

SKROOM!

I--AH--TAKE IT THE ANSWER WAS *NO*, MR. WINKS?

YEAH... YOU COULD *SAY* THAT.

THEY DECIDED I WASN'T WHAT THE *N.B.I.* WAS LOOKING FOR!

BOY, THOSE GUYS WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE *TALENT* IF IT RAN UP AN' BIT 'EM ON THE *LEG!*

SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO *NOW*, WOOZY?

WHAT *ELSE?* I PLAN TO KEEP *TRYING!*

I'M GONNA GET INTO THE *N.B.I.* ONE WAY OR *ANOTHER!*

GEE-- MAYBE I SHOULD'VE LET THEM *FIRE* ME WHILE I HAD THE *CHANCE!*

NEXT ISSUE: MEET THE MOST *INCREDIBLE* KILLER OF ALL--

"WHIRLING DERVISH!"

MINI-POSTER

LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

OF ALL THE CLUBS THAT HAVE EVER EXISTED, OR WILL EVER COME INTO BEING, NONE IS [illegible] AMAZING THAN THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES** OF THE 21ST CENTURY! EVERY MEMBER POSSESSES AT LEAST ONE SUPER-POWER, WHICH HE USES FOR WORTHY PURPOSES! HOWEVER, NO CLUB IS MORE DIFFICULT TO JOIN, FOR OF ALL THE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WHO SEEK TO ENLIST [illegible] ONE [illegible] FASCINATING TALE OF THE ORDEAL ENDURED BY A SUPER-HERO WHO MADE [illegible] WAY! REAL [illegible]

The SECRET ORIGIN of BOUNCING BOY!

SEE? I CAN BOUNCE HIGH INTO THE SKY! THAT'S WHY I CALL MYSELF **BOUNCING BOY!**--NOW CAN I JOIN **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES?**

BOUNCING LIKE A RUBBER BALL MAY AMUSE YOU, BUT **LEGION** MEMBERS MUST HAVE MIGHTY POWERS WHICH CAN BE USED TO BATTLE EVILDOERS!

SORRY, **BOUNCING BOY**, BUT YOUR PARTICULAR SUPER-POWER DOESN'T QUALIFY YOU TO JOIN OUR CLUB! CONSIDER YOURSELF **BOUNCED!**

STORY
JERRY SIEGEL
ART
JOHN FORTE

MANY YEARS HENCE, IN THE 21ST CENTURY, IN THE CITY OF **METROPOLIS**, WHERE AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD HAS GATHERED...

WOW! --LOOK! THERE'S **COSMIC BOY, SUN BOY** AND **SHRINKING VIOLET!**

IT SURE FEELS GREAT TO HAVE SO MANY ADMIRERS!

YES, BUT WE'VE COME HERE TO ATTEND A CLUB MEETING ...NOT TO BE IDOLIZED BY LEGION FANS!

SHORTLY, AS ANOTHER LEGIONNAIRE ARRIVES...

CAN WE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, **LIGHTNING LAD?**

CHUCKLE. OH, MY! I'LL GLADLY HOLD YOUR AUTOGRAPH-SENSITIZED SCRIPTO-PLATED OVERHEAD, AND I'LL SIGN THEM WITH MY **DUPLI-WRITING STYLUS!**

NEXT INSTANT

WHAT AN IDEA! I CAN SIGN **THOUSANDS** OF AUTOGRAPHS SIMULTANEOUSLY, THIS WAY! IN THE PAST CELEBRITIES HAVE WRITTEN THEIR NAMES OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

Lightning Lad

AS THE LAST MEMBER ARRIVES

HAS THE MEETING STARTED YET, **SATURN GIRL?**

NOT YET, **CHAMELEON BOY!**

NOW THAT EVERYONE'S HERE, I'LL MAKE CERTAIN WE WON'T BE DISTURBED BY ANY TOO PERSISTENT ADMIRERS!

FORCE SHIELD ACTIVATOR

ONE MOMENT AFTERWARD...

OH-OH! THEY'VE ACTIVATED A **FORCE-SHIELD** ABOUT THE CLUBHOUSE! LET'S LEAVE!

WE MIGHT AS WELL SINCE IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE** FOR ANYONE TO PENETRATE THAT FIELD OF FORCE!

INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE

ATTENTION, EVERYBODY! THE MEETING WILL NOW COME TO ORDER! SOME OF OUR MEMBERS AREN'T PRESENT TODAY BECAUSE THEY'RE BUSY PERFORMING MISSIONS ON OTHER WORLDS!

COSMIC BOY

FOR INSTANCE, THIS MONITOR SCREEN REVEALS LEGIONNAIRE **COLOSSAL BOY** ON THE PLANET **GRYKK**! HE'S MADE HIMSELF HUGE TO FIGHT A GIANT WHO HAS TERRORIZED A TOWN OF NORMAL-SIZED BEINGS!

GRYKK

HERE, ON ANOTHER WORLD, WE SEE LEGIONNAIRE **PHANTOM GIRL**, ENTERING THE "*IMPENETRABLE*" HIDEOUT OF SOME EVIL-DOERS! ONCE INSIDE, SHE'LL OPEN THE GATE SO THE ALIEN LAW-OFFICERS CAN GET IN!

LUMBAK

AND ON STILL ANOTHER PLANET, WE SEE SUPER-HERO **ULTRA-BOY** USING HIS **PENETRA-VISION** TO MELT DOWN A BERSERK **LEAD** METAL MONSTER! SOME STUNT, EH?

FERNO

BUT NOW TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO EXAMINE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF BOYS AND GIRLS POSSESSING SUPER-POWERS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE LEGION! ONLY **ONE** WILL BE SELECTED! PLEASE STEP OUTSIDE, EVERYONE!

AS THE FORCE-FIELD IS TURNED OFF, AND THEY EMERGE...

GOOD! THE CURIOSITY-SEEKERS ARE GONE! WE'LL NOW BEGIN EXAMINING...

HOLD EVERY-THING! DON'T MOVE!!

3

SECONDS AFTERWARD.

A JET CRAFT! WHOEVER IS INSIDE--IF YOU'RE AN ENEMY OF THE *LEGION* AND YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, YOU'LL GET IT!

DON'T BE SO HOT-TEMPERED, SUN BOY!

PRESENTING MY YOUNG EMPLOYER, *LESTER SPIFFANY*... HIS FATHER OWNS EARTH'S SWANKIEST JEWELRY ESTABLISHMENT!

YOU LUCKY LEGIONNAIRES! I HAVE DECIDED TO JOIN YOUR... ER... RANKS!

IS HE FOR *REAL?*

UH WHAT SINGLE SUPER-POWER DO YOU POSSESS, LESTER?

NONE--BUT I DO HAVE *LOTS* OF MONEY! I'LL PAY WELL FOR THE PRESTIGE OF BEING A MEMBER! HERE, TAKE THIS *DAZILE GEM* FROM THE WORLD OF XANDU... IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!

SWEAR ME IN PROMPTLY, BECAUSE I'VE AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT ON *MARS,* SOON!

SORRY, BUT WE DON'T WANT YOUR GEM, *OR* YOU! NO ONE CAN *BUY* HIS WAY INTO THE LEGION!

BUNK! EVERYONE HAS HIS PRICE! LOOK--I'LL PURCHASE A NEW, HUGE CLUBHOUSE TO REPLACE THIS CRUMMY LITTLE BUILDING! OKAY?

NO SALE! GOODBYE, LESTER! IT HASN'T BEEN NICE MEETING YOU!

AS THE SPOILED RICH YOUTH DEPARTS ANGRILY

YOU'RE STUPID, ALL OF YOU! STUPID!! STUPID!!

GOOD RIDDANCE! NOW TO RESUME WHERE WE LEFT OFF WHEN WE WERE INTERRUPTED! YOUR NAME, APPLICANT?

I AM.. *STORM BOY!!*

THEN A **STORM** WILL BREAK LOOSE OVERHEAD.

RAIN!

HOW

AS **COSMIC BOY** APPLICANT

STOP!

OF SUPER-MAGNETISM IS CAUSING A SMALL METAL DEVICE TO FLY OUT OF YOUR POCKET--WHERE YOUR HAND WAS A MOMENT AGO!

COSMIC BOY

HMM! JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE SECOND I PRESSED THIS "**OFF**" BUTTON, THE STORM STOPPED! I NOTICED IT DIDN'T **START** UNTIL YOU REACHED YOUR HAND INTO YOUR POCKET! AS I SUSPECTED, YOU HAD A **WEATHER-CONTROL** DEVICE HIDDEN ON YOU!

NO ONE CAN JOIN THE LEGION UNLESS THEY HAVE A **GENUINE** SUPER-POWER OF THEIR OWN WHICH WORKS **WITH-OUT** THE AID OF MECHANICAL DEVICES! **TRIPLICATE GIRL**, GET RID OF THIS FAKER!

JUST AS SOON AS I MATERIALIZE TWO EXACT DUPLICATES OF MYSELF!

AN INSTANT AFTERWARD

PRESTO!

FEAT ACCOMPLISHED.

NOW THERE ARE **THREE** OF ME

WAIT! LET ME EXPLAIN!

OUT YOU PHONY!

GET LOST!

WE DON'T WANT YOUR ILK IN OUR CLUB!

ATTENTION, PLEASE!

WE'LL NOW HAVE A BRIEF RECESS! WE SHALL RESUME EXAMINING APPLICANTS SHORTLY! MEANWHILE, IF THERE ARE ANY MORE FAKERS AMONG YOU, BETTER LEAVE BEFORE WE EXPOSE YOU!

AS ENTERING THE CLUBHOUSE, THE APPLICANTS ARE AWED TO OBSERVE:

GOSH, LOOK AT THE MANY TROPHIES GIVEN TO LEGION MEMBERS FOR THEIR GOOD DEEDS!

THE SUPER-HEROES ARE FAMED AND HONORED ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE!!

IT'S SURE TOUGH TO GET INTO THIS CLUB! I HOPE I SUCCEED!

PERHAPS, IF YOU HEAR HOW ONE OF OUR LEGION MEMBERS WAS ABLE TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS, IT WILL INSPIRE YOU!

...I'LL PRESS THIS BUTTON, ACTIVATING THE SELECTOR MACHINE! -- ROUND AND ROUND SPIN FIGURINES OF OUR MEMBERS, MOUNTED ON A WHEEL! LET'S SEE WHO IS CHOSEN BY SHEER CHANCE TO TELL HIS TALE...

SUDDENLY, AS THE FIGURINE-WHEEL STOPS SPINNING, UP POPS THE FIGURINE OF

THE WINNER BOUNCING BOY! -- CHUCKLE! -- YOU'LL FIND HIS STORY UNUSUAL!

TO BEGIN, MY REAL NAME IS CHUCK TAYNE. MY TALE STARTS SEVERAL YEARS AGO..

WHEN I WAS THE EARLY BOY OF A FAMED SCIENTIST..."

I DELIVER THIS NEW DISCOVERY OF MINE, AN INSTANT SUPER-PLANT FOOD TO THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, AT ONCE!

YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY!!

"EN ROUTE TO MY DESTINATION, I YIELDED TO TEMPTATION."

ROBOT GLADIATOR TOURNAMENT
SAVAGE - EXCITING - YET HARMLESS

BOY, I DON'T WANT TO MISS TODAY'S MATCH FOR ANYTHING! ... WATCH IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

...INSIDE THE ARENA..."

WHAT A THRILL! TWO RIVAL TEAMS ARE WITHIN THOSE CUBICLES BELOW, EACH OPERATING A ROBOT WARRIOR BY REMOTE CONTROL! EVERY MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ROBOT ARM OR LEG! THAT'S WHY THERE ARE **FOUR** MEN ON EACH TEAM!

WHAT A GREAT BATTLE THE MEN OPERATING THE GIANT ROBOTS' ARMS AND LEGS SURE ARE SKILLFUL. THE FIGHTS BETWEEN ALWINS HERE OVER FIFTY YEARS HAD TO BE BRUTAL. THESE METAL GIANTS SMASH AND BEATS OPPONENTS!

"I WAS SO EXCITED, I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF THE METAL GLADIATORS FOR A MOMENT - AND THAT'S WHEN I MADE A FATEFUL MISTAKE! REACHING FOR THE SCUM-KOO BOTTLE I'D BOUGHT FROM A VENDOR AND PLACED BESIDE THE LAB-BOTTLE, I LIFTED THE **WRONG** BOTTLE..."

"UNEXPECTEDLY"

UGH! THIS SODA POP SURE TASTES AWFUL!--ULP! NO WONDER IT ISN'T SODA! GAA! I'M DRINKING THE SUPER-PLASTIC FLUID BY MISTAKE!!

"THEN, TO MY HORROR..."

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I FEEL PECULIAR! OH, NO!!

LOOK AT ME! I'M EXPANDING--LIKE A BALLOON!! HE'S LUCKY HE'S WEARING CLOTHING MADE OF STRETCHABLE FIBER!

"RISING TO MY FEET IN DISMAY, I LOST MY BALANCE, TRIPPED, AND..."

{CHOKE--! I'M B-BOUNCING DOWNWARD! I DON'T FEEL PAIN WHENEVER I STRIKE SOMETHING SOLID! MY BODY FEELS SOFT... LIKE A SPONGE!!

"THE EFFECT OF MY UNHELPFUL ENTRY WAS DISASTROUS..."

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU BOUNCING BABOON! YOU MADE US LOSE CONTROL OF OUR ROBOT, AND NOW THE RIVAL TEAM WON!

OH! I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR BEING PEEVED! I-I'D BETTER BOUNCE RIGHT OUT OF HERE!!

"DOWN AND DOWN I CONTINUED TO BOUNCE, UNTIL..."

ERK! I SAILED INTO ONE OF THE CUBICLES! I'M B-BANGING AGAINST THE MEN OPERATING ONE OF THE ROBOTS! NOW I KNOW HOW A MARBLE REBOUNDING IN A PIN-BALL MACHINE FEELS!

HEY!

"MINUTES LATER, REVERTING TO MY NORMAL APPEARANCE, I SLIPPED OUT OF THE ARENA."

"CHOKE!--I BECAME A HUMAN BOUNCING BALL! I'D BETTER GO TO A HOSPITAL FOR A MEDICAL CHECK-UP RIGHT AWAY!"

EXIT

"AT THE HOSPITAL THE MEDICS EXAMINED ME THOROUGHLY, THEN ANNOUNCED..."

STRANGE... VERY STRANGE! ACCORDING TO OUR INSTRUMENTS.. THAT PLASTIC FLUID YOU DRANK ACCIDENTALLY HAS GIVEN YOU ***PERMANENT BOUNCING-POWER***...

...WHICH FROM NOW ON WILL GO INTO EFFECT WHENEVER YOU ***WILL IT*** TO BECOME ACTIVATED! GO AHEAD! TRY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

NONSENSE!...AWP! YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M EXPENDING ENERGY BY BOUNCING HIGH TO HAPPEN NORMALLY.

"LATER, RETURNED TO NORMAL, I WAS CONFUSED. NOT KNOWING WHETHER TO BE PLEASED OR FEARFUL BECAUSE OF MY AMAZING NEW POWER BUT SOON AFTER WARD..."

GEE! ***LIGHTNING LAD*** IS PREVENTING THESE CROOKS FROM ESCAPING BY BLASTING THE JETS OFF THEIR ESCAPE CRAFT WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT! GOSH, MAYBE...

"THAT'S WHEN IT FIRST OCCURRED TO I MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE MY BOUNCING POWER TO JOIN ***THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!*** BUT WHEN I APPLIED..."

HOWEVER, YOUR TALENT FOR...ER BOUNCING IS NOT VERY PRACTICAL FOR...CRUSADING AGAINST EVIL!

SORRY, WE CAN'T USE YOU! LOTS OF LUCK!

CHOKE, THEY DON'T WANT ME! AND I WAS SO CLOSE TO MAKE IT

YOU CAN BOUNCE, ALL RIGHT; BUT... ***SO WHAT?!***

THAT'S THE BOUNCING BOY'S [illegible]

WHAT? YOU MEAN THE LEGION REJECTED YOU!!!

I NEVER KNEW THAT...

YES! BUT THOUGH I FAILED TO GET IN, I REFUSED TO GIVE UP!

"I WAS DETERMINED TO PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE [illegible]. I THOUGHT I HAD MY CHANCE A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN..."

LOOK! A FALLING GLOBE!

MAYBE IT'S A BOMB!

I'LL SAVE THE CITY AS BOUNCING BOY!

"ACTING SWIFTLY, I JUMPED OFF THE [illegible], ALTERING MY FORM WITH A MENTAL COMMAND..."

I WILL MYSELF TO BECOME... BOUNCING BOY!

AH... IT WORKED! I'M BOUNCING UP TOWARD THAT TERRIBLE BOMB...!

"...AS I COLLIDED WITH THE GLOBE, IT BOUNCED OFF MY SPONGY FORM..."

IT'S REBOUNDING UPWARD, WHERE IT'LL EXPLODE HARMLESSLY! HOORAY! NOW THAT I'M A HERO, THE LEGION WILL HAVE TO ADMIT ME!

"BUT SECONDS LATER, AS THE 'BOMB' BURST

[illegible]

OH, NO! THAT WASN'T A BOMB! IT--IT WAS JUST AN ADVERTISING MISSILE MESSAGE [illegible]! TWO OF THE SUPER-HEROES IN A LEGION PLANE ARE LAUGHING AT MY FLOP "RESCUE"! THEY MUST THINK I'M THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FOOL!

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"AND SO, INSTEAD OF BEING IDOLIZED BY ALL.."

HA, HA! THERE'S THAT BOUNCING IDIOT! I WONDER IF HE WRITES BOUNCING CHECKS?

I'VE BECOME... A LAUGHING STOCK! SHOULD I FORGET MY DREAMS ABOUT JOINING THE LEGION?

"BUT THEN, ONE DAY..."

GREAT SCOTT! THAT MAN, CLAD IN A RUBBER COSTUME AND WEARING METAL GLOVES, TOUCHED THE STORE WINDOW AND THE GLASS **BURST!** THAT MUST BE AN ELECTRIC-GENERATOR ON HIS BACK! --> GASP!!.. HE'S STEALING THAT INVALUABLE **HEALING URN,** WHOSE RADIATIONS CAN CURE ALMOST ANY ILLNESS!

USEUM OF MEDICAL

OUT OF MY WAY, OR **ELSE!**

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! I'LL STOP YOU.

OH-OH! HIS METAL GLOVE, TOUCHING THE PEDESTRIAN WHO'S TRYING TO STOP HIM, 'S PARALYZING THE FELLOW INSTANTLY!

HA HA! MY RUBBER COSTUME AND RUBBER BOOTS PROTECT **ME** FROM [illegible] GROUNDED

BUT THAT WON'T DO FOR ANY FOOL WHO TRIES TO CAPTURE ME! I'M WEARING **RUBBER** GLOVES BENEATH THE METAL GLOVES WHICH ARE CONNECTED BY WIRES TO MY GENERATOR-PACK! **I'M** THOROUGHLY PROTECTED FROM THE ELECTRICITY!

WELL, WELL! **SATURN GIRL...** IN PERSON! HOW **SHOCKING** TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE THIS WAY! SINCE **YOU'RE** GROUNDED, AND I'M NOT, THE ELECTRIC CHARGE IS PARALYZING YOU!

I'LL CAPTURE HIM, THOUGH THE OTHERS FAILED!

11

BECOME BOUNCING BOY!!-- GOOD! I'M EXPANDING, BALLOON-LIKE! NOW TO TAKE A RUNNING JUMP AND BOUNCE TOWARD THAT BOUNDER!

KEEP AWAY, FAT BOY, OR [illegible] YOU, LIKE THE OTHERS!

THINK SO? LET'S FIND OUT JUST WHO WRONG YOU ARE!

[illegible] YOURSELF! THEY DON'T AFFECT ME AT ALL!

OW-WOHN!

KA-POW!

"AND AS I [illegible]

HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! I'LL REMOVE THE GENERATOR-PACK SO HE WON'T [illegible] ABLE TO HARM ANYONE [illegible]

"IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE PARALYZED [illegible] RECOVERED AND THE PLACE BECAME CROWDED WITH [illegible] AND SUPER-LEGIONNAIRES WHO RESPONDED TO A BATTERY-ALARM SIGNAL—

GOOD WORK! BUT HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET [illegible] CHECK WHEN NO ONE ELSE [illegible]

BECAUSE OF MY BOUNCING POWER!

I KNEW THAT [illegible] WOULDN'T PARALYZE ME WITH AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK WHILE I WAS IN THE AIR BECAUSE I WOULDN'T BE GROUNDED [illegible] THE OTHERS!

[illegible] PRACTICAL USE!

* THIS [illegible] TOOK PLACE A FEW YEARS BEFORE THE LEGIONNAIRES INVENTED ANTI-GRAVITY BELTS! — EDITOR.

"SEVERAL DAYS LATER, I RECITED THE SUPER-HERO OATH, AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IN A CEREMONY I WILL NEVER FORGET..."

"..AND I PROMISE TO USE MY SUPER-POWER ONLY FOR GOOD, WITHOUT EXPECTING FINANCIAL REWARD, AND I PLEDGE TO DO MY BEST TO AID FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES WHO ARE IN PERIL!"

AS THE INITIATING LAD FINISHES HIS OATH...

WELL, THAT'S MY STORY, AND IF IT INSPIRES YOU PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS, I'LL BE VERY PLEASED! GOOD LUCK!

THANKS FOR TELLING US ABOUT YOURSELF!

MINUTES LATER, OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE...

ARE YOU READY TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPER-POWER, NEXT APPLICANT?

YES!

BOUNCING BOY MADE THE GRADE... MAYBE I CAN, TOO

IF I'M REJECTED, I'LL PERSIST LIKE BOUNCING BOY! I WON'T GIVE UP! I'LL KEEP TRYING UNTIL I SUCCEED IN JOINING THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!!!

SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE

AQUAMAN

RE-UNITED AT LAST, THE GREAT SEA KING AND HIS QUEEN SWIM BACK TOWARD ATLANTIS...

I STILL CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT, MERA! NARKRAN, MY FIRST DEPUTY, HAD A HAND IN YOUR ABDUCTION!

AND, LIKE A FOOL, I LEFT THE FATE OF ALL ATLANTIS IN HIS HANDS!

...WHILE WITHIN THE GREAT DOMED KINGDOM ITSELF...

HEED ME--ALL OF YOU! NEVER FORGET THAT I AM ACTING RULER OF ATLANTIS!

THIS MAN HAS DISOBEYED ONE OF MY COMMANDS! THEREFORE, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BANISH HIM FOREVER FROM THE KINGDOM!

LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL OF YOU!

THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH! THAT MAN DID NOTHING! NARKRAN HAS BECOME A MERCILESS TYRANT! HE MUST BE OVERTHROWN!

NO! REVOLUTION IS NOT THE ANSWER! WE MUST WAIT FOR AQUAMAN! HE--

WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! WE'VE NO IDEA WHEN AQUAMAN WILL RETURN--IF HE WILL RETURN AT ALL!

BUT...

WE MUST ACT--AND SOON!!

I CAN'T LET THESE PEOPLE REVOLT! TOO MANY LIVES WILL BE LOST!

MUST STOP THEM!

COME THE REVOLUTION

LATER, AQUAGIRL WANDERS AIMLESSLY THROUGH ATLANTIS--

I MUST STOP THEM... BUT HOW? ARGUING WITH THEM DOES NO GOOD!

AND...I CAN'T GO TO NARKRAN! HE'D HAVE THE REBELS BANISHED ...OR EXECUTED!

SCR[illegible]: STEVE SKEATES
ART - JIM APARO
EDITOR - DICK GIORDANO

SO...WHAT DO I DO??

AND WHILE AQUAGIRL PONDERS...

WE TAKE YOU NOW TO REBEL HEADQUARTERS.

I STILL SAY WE SHOULDN'T'VE LET THAT GIRL OUT OF OUR SIGHT!

SHE WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE! SHE'S AGAINST OUR REVOLUTION, BUT SHE KNOWS 'SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT NARKRAN--SO WHEN WE ACT, SHE'LL JOIN US!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE? I DON'T TRUST HER, AND YOU SHOULDN'T EITHER! YOU'RE GETTING SOFT, MAN! I THINK YOU'RE STARTING TO FALL FOR THAT GIRL!

FALLING FOR HER? ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA! SHE'S A SHARP, PRETTY GIRL!

BUT WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT ME GETTING SOFT! REMEMBER--I'M STILL THE LEADER HERE! LET'S NOT FORGET THAT!

NOW, C'MON--LET'S CALL THIS MEETING TO ORDER!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL ALL OF YOU!

...I'M GETTING TIRED OF WAITING! SO I'M MOVING UP THE DATE OF THE REVOLUTION!

WE STRIKE TODAY!!

HOURS LATER... STRANGELY GARBED MEN PASS THROUGH THE STREETS OF ATLANTIS...

AND

HALT! NO ONE IS ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT! THIS IS A RESTRICTED WEAPONS STRONGHOLD! YOU CAN'T--

NOW MEN!

ATTACK!!

WHA-?

KEEP AT 'EM! WE'VE GOT 'EM LICKED!

A REVOLT! SHOOT TO KILL! DON'T LET THEM PAST US!

GOTTA MAKE THIS QUICK -- BEFORE MORE GUARDS ARE ALERTED!

THEY'RE TOO CLOSE! THEY CAN'T STOP US NOW!

THIS BUILDING IS ONLY OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE! ONCE WE GET THE WEAPONS INSIDE, IT'LL BE EASY TO OVERTHROW THE TYRANT!

AND AS THE BATTLE RAGES... STILL QUITE FAR FROM ATLANTIS, WE FIND...

AQUAMAN! LOOK! ISN'T THAT--

IMP!-- AQUALAD'S SEA HORSE!

YES! IT IS IMP!

BUT...WHAT'S HE DOING WAY OUT IN THESE WATERS?!

UNLESS--

AQUALAD WAS VERY EAGER TO JOIN ME IN MY SEARCH! PERHAPS, AFTER HIS ARM HEALED, HE CAME LOOKING FOR ME!

BUT... WHY WOULD HE ABANDON IMP?

DO YOU KNOW [illegible] THIS PART OF THE OCEAN? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HERE BEFORE?

YES! IT WAS QUITE A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO ...AND...

[illegible] AQUAMAN, YOU THINK AQUALAD'S AROUND HERE?

...AS I RECALL--THERE IS A RATHER **ADVANCED**--RATHER **PEACEFUL** CIVILIZATION IN A VALLEY NOT FAR FROM HERE! PERHAPS **THAT'S** WHERE AQUALAD IS!

C'MON--WE'RE GOING TO **DELAY** OUR RETURN TO ATLANTIS--AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND MINNOW!.

IF I CAN REACH **REBEL HEADQUARTERS** AND TALK TO SOMEONE THERE ... MAYBE I CAN **STOP** THE BLOODSHED BEFORE MORE LIVES ARE **WASTED!** IF ONLY--

NAGS!

HUH??

SHE'S THE ONE! YOU WERE SEEN EARLIER IN THE MAIN PLAZA--TALKING TO THE ONE WHO NOW LEADS THE REBELS!

SO WHAT?? THAT'S NO **CRIME!** YOU CAN'T--

SHUT-UP, YOUNG LADY! YOU'RE COMING WITH US!

...NEVER THOUGHT THE REBELS WOULD STRIKE **THIS SOON!** FIGHTING'S BROKEN OUT **ALL OVER** THE CITY!

I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING!

THIS'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE! **YOU** FIT THE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF A GIRL WE'RE LOOKING FOR--

NOW, HOLD ON...

KEEP YOUR GUN OVER! I'LL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

AND, IN AQUAMAN'S ROYAL CHAMBERS, NOW OCCUPIED BY NARKRAN...

SPEAK UP, FOOL! GIVE ME YOUR REPORT!

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, S'R! MANY CITIZENS HAVE JOINED THE REBEL FORCES! WE ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO --

NOT STRONG ENOUGH!!??

I ASKED FOR A REPORT! NOT EXCUSES!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH? THEY BETTER GET STRONG ENOUGH MIGHTY QUICK...BECAUSE THEY MUST KEEP FIGHTING TILL THE LAST ONE OF THEM IS DEAD! UNDERSTAND?

JUST THEN...

WE FOUND HER, S.R!

AH, GOOD! NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!

SO, AQUAGIRL--I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BECOME QUITE CHUMMY WITH THE REBEL LEADER! IS THAT TRUE??

NO! NOT REALLY! I--

DON'T LIE TO ME! YOU TWO HAVE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS!

NOW, MOVE--OVER TO THE BALCONY!

BUT, SIR...

...IT ISN'T SAFE FOR YOU TO SHOW YOURSELF! SOME-ONE MI--

OOMPHFF!

QUIET, FOOL! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE REVOLT!

AND, MOMENTS LATER IN THE STREET BELOW, REBELS AND [illegible] CEASE TO BATTLE AND SUDDENLY STARE UPWARD...

THE REVOLUTION IS OVER!!

I WANT ALL OF YOU TO THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS--NOW--OR ELSE THIS NICE, PRETTY GIRL DIES!

HE'S BLUFFING! HE WOULDN'T REALLY KILL HER!

GUARDS... HOLD YOUR FIRE! ALLOW THE REBELS TO DO AS I SAY!

THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE! WHILE THE GUARDS HAVE THEIR WEAPONS LOWERED!

YOU'RE THE LEADER, MAN! GIVE THE ORDER TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK!

NO!

I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE THAT WE MIGHT CAUSE THE DEATH OF AN INNOCENT GIRL!

FOOL!.. HE WON'T DO IT! BESIDES SHE'S ONLY ONE GIRL! SEVERAL LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST! WHAT DOES ONE MORE MATTER??

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! I SAID THROW DOWN YOUR ARMS -- NOW -- OR--

OKAY! OKAY, GLORIOUS TYRANT! YOU WIN!

YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID! LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS, AND--

NO! NO! DON'T DO IT!

WE CAN'T GIVE UP EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED FOR BECAUSE OF ONE STUPID GIRL!..

SHUT-UP, YOU FOOL!

IDIOT! IT'S ALL A TRICK! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT ?! THAT GIRL'S ON NARKRAN'S SIDE!

AND YOU'RE FALLING FOR IT!

I'M STILL IN CHARGE HERE! I SAID LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS!

THAT MEANS YOU, TOO, DEX!!

WHANGH!

I CAN'T LET YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING! WE'VE COME TOO FAR TO GIVE IT UP NOW!

FROM NOW ON... I'M GIVING THE ORDERS!

THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING! YOU'VE GOT TWO SECONDS IN WHICH TO COMPLY!

HE'S WAVING HIS SWORD AROUND LIKE A MADMAN! AND HE KEEPS LOOSENING HIS GRIP!

IF HE'D LOOSEN IT A BIT MORE... I COULD BREAK FREE!

10

AND WHILE THE TENSION MOUNTS IN ATLANTIS... ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER DRAMA UNFOLDS..

SOMETHING'S **WRONG!** AS I REMEMBER IT, THIS VALLEY WAS FILLED WITH **LUSH VEGETATION!** BUT NOW, I SEE NO PLANT-LIFE AT ALL!

THERE'S THE VILLAGE UP AHEAD, BUT...

THE BUILDINGS ARE IN RUINS; EVERYWHERE THERE IS THE SMELL OF DEATH AND DECAY...

IT'S **DESERTED!** LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN THIS WAY FOR **SOME TIME!**

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?

I DON'T **KNOW!** I SUPPOSE THE HUMANOIDS COULD HAVE **ABANDONED** THIS COLONY -- FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER -- AND... **NO!** WAIT!

LISTEN TO **THAT!** **VOICES!** SOUNDS LIKE A WHOLE **THRONG** OF PEOPLE, OVER BY THOSE MOUNTAINS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT **AQUALAD?** DO YOU THINK --

THEN, THEY SEE STRANGE CREATURES, THE LAST MEMBERS OF A DYING RACE... AND...

GOOD LORD! IT'S --

AQUALAD! FIGHTING SOME SORT OF **HIDEOUS MONSTROSITY!**

THESE HUMANOIDS -- JUST STANDING AROUND, WATCHING!

GOTTA GET UP THERE AND HELP AQUALAD!

GOOD GOD!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

THAT DOG!! HE'S GOT COLD!

NOW TO GIVE THE ORDER WHILE WE CAN STILL CATCH THE GUARDS FLAT-FOOTED!

ATTACK!! OVERTHROW THE TYRANT!!

NO! NO! STOP!!

I'M WARNING YOU! THIS GIRL'S AS GOOD AS DEAD! STOP--NOW!

THERE!

WHA--?

YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS, YOU LITTLE TRAITOR!

GOTTA SCOOT... FAST!

NAMKRAN THRUSTS H.S BLADE FORWARD... THEN, A PIERCING SCREAM ECHOES THROUGH THE BRINE...

AQUAGIRL!!

NO!

HE DID IT!

THEY FORCED HIM INTO IT!

GET OUTTA MY WAY— ALL OF YOU!!

UNMINDFUL OF INJURY, THE REBEL LEADER RECKLESSLY CHARGES THROUGH THE SCENE OF BATTLE, BRUSHING ASIDE BOTH FACTIONS, AND...

SHE'S STILL BREATHING! ONLY **WOUNDED!** BUT...

SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD! GOTTA GET **HELP!** THEN...

PERHAPS **I** CAN HELP!

VULKO!

YES, SHE **NEEDS** YOUR HELP! GET HER TO **SAFETY!** TEND TO HER WOUND!

WAIT A MINUTE!..

MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT SOMETHING **ELSE** TO ATTEND TO!

BUT THERE'S NO HOLDING HIM BACK, AS HE SWIMS UP TOWARD THE ROYAL CHAMBERS..

A SPEAR! THEY'VE **SEEN** ME -- BUT THEY SURE AREN'T GONNA STOP ME!

WITH AGILITY HE KNEW NOT HE POSSESSED, THE REBEL LEADER DUCKS AWAY FROM DEADLY MISSILES SHOT AT POINT-BLANK RANGE..

NO! GET AWAY FROM ME!

HELP! GUARDS! HELP ME!

STOP HIM, INCOMPETENT FOOL! STOP HIM!

NO ONE'S GOING TO STOP **ME!**

YOU'RE THE ONE, I WANT, **COWARD!** **YOU,** WHO'D STAB A DEFENSELESS GIRL-- FOR NO REASON!

NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU, NARKRAN! THEY'RE ALL TOO BUSY **FIGHTING** REVOLUTIONARIES -- REMEMBER??

AQUAGIRL WASN'T EVEN PART OF THE REVOLUTION! SHE WAS AGAINST IT! SHE TRIED TO STOP US!

AND YOU-- YOU MAY HAVE KILLED HER!

NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

REALLY PAY!!

BE SURE TO BE WITH US NEXT ISSUE FOR A GIGANTIC [illegible] EARTHQUAKE AS WE HONESTLY TIE UP ALL THE LOOSE ENDS THAT ARE LYING AROUND!

Captain MARVEL BATTLES THE WORLD'S MADDEST GHOST!

WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN CAPTAIN MARVEL'S BITTEREST ENEMY? THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS.. DR SIVANA, THE WORLD'S MADDEST MASTERMIND!

BUT IF CAPTAIN MARVEL THOUGHT HE HAD TROUBLE WITH THE EVIL GENIUS BEFORE, IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS BATTLE WITH THE WORLD'S MADDEST GHOST!

SIVANA'S DEAD AND GONE! NO MORE TROUBLE FROM HIM EH?

SIVANA

PARDON ME, CHUM! I THINK YOU'RE DUE FOR A SHOCK! HEH HEH HEH!

YOU MIGHT PASS BILLY BATSON BOY ANNOUNCER OF STATION WHIZ ON THE STREET AND THINK HIM QUITE THE TWELVE YEARS OF OTHER KIDS!

BUT IN ONE THING BILLY IS FAR DIFFERENT, FOR CONSTANTLY HAUNTING HIM IS A RELENTLESS ENEMY--- DR SIVANA, THE WORLD'S MADDEST SCIENTIST!

THERE'S BILLY, THAT THORN IN MY SIDE! HE'S ALWAYS CHANGING TO CAPTAIN MARVEL AND SMASHING MY PLOTS TO RULE THE WORLD!

CAPTAIN MARVEL MUST GO--- THEREFORE, BILLY MUST DIE!

BUT BILLY HAS A UNIQUE MEANS DEVISED TO WARN HIM AGAINST HIS ARCH FOE!

MY SIVANA SIREN! SIVANA IS NEARBY! SHAZAM!

EEeeEEeeEE

THE MYSTIC WORD BRINGS A CRASH OF MAGIC LIGHTNING, AND BILLY IS INSTANTLY CHANGED TO HIS OTHER FORM THAT OF

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

BOOM

ONCE MORE THE EVIL GENIUS IS FORCED!

HI, SIVANA!

OH NO! A THOUSAND TIMES NO! NOT YOU AGAIN!

HOW IN BLAZES DID BILLY KNOW I WAS NEAR?

SIMPLE ENOUGH, SIVANA! HE WEARS A WARNING RING THE SIVANA SIREN! READY TO BE NABBED NOW?

BAH! IF BILLY IS HARD TO KILL, I'M HARD TO NAB! WATCH WHAT MY NEW ROCKET BULLET DOES!

RAM

ATTACK

HELP!

STRENGTH BEYOND COMPARE IS DISPLAYED BY THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL AS HEAVEN'S DISASTER!

G-GOSH, THANKS, CAPTAIN MARVEL! THAT WOULD HAVE PUT US ALL IN THE HOSPITAL! YOU'RE TERRIFIC!

BUT THAT LITTLE WORM GOT AWAY!

DEXTER BILLY VISITS HIS BOY FRIEND DEXTER KNOWING SCIENTIST WITH THANKS OF HIS OWN.

YOUR SIVANA SIREN JUST SAVED MY LIFE, DEXTER! HOW DOES IT WORK?

BRIEFLY, IT'S TUNED TO SIVANA'S BRAIN WAVES, WHICH SET OFF THE ALARM WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE!

WHAT'S THE USE? I CAN NEVER ELIMINATE CAPTAIN MARVEL! I CAN NEVER RULE THE WORLD! LIFE ISN'T WORTH LIVING!

THERE'S BILLY'S OFFICE! I'LL SEND HIM A LAST REMINDER OF ME!

EEEEEEEEEE!!

SIVANA'S NEAR... SHAZAM!

SIVANA'S POWERFUL BOMB ONLY EXPLODES HARMLESSLY ON THE IMPERVIOUS CHEST OF THE MIGHTIEST MAN ON EARTH!

WOW! THAT THING WOULD HAVE BLOWN UP THE WHOLE OFFICE!

NOW TO GRAB SIVANA! HE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME!

HE'S HEADING FOR THAT ROCKY CLIFF! PROBABLY HAS A HIDDEN TRAPDOOR IN IT

NO! HE CRASHED RIGHT INTO IT! HOLY MOLEY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HAS SIVANA DESTROYED HIMSELF?

HE.. HE'S **DEAD!** HOLY MOLEY! THIS IS THE **END OF SIVANA!**

I'LL FLY HIS BODY BACK FOR DECENT BURIAL! BUT I STILL CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THIS!

SIVANA FUNERAL TO-DAY

SIVANA DEAD

WILD JOY ALL OVER WORLD

MAD KILLER

WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL WINS OUT IN MIGHTIEST WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SCIENTIST

SIVANA IS COME FOREVER!

NOT QUITE, CAPTAIN MARVEL OLD PAL, OLD CHUM, OLD KID! HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEHHHH!

IN THAT VOICE! THAT WICKED CHUCKLE! BUT IT CAN'T BE! SIVANA'S DEAD!

SURE, I'M DEAD! BUT DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR OF A GHOST COMING BACK FROM THE GRAVE?

HOLY MOLEY! THE GHOST OF SIVANA!

I MEAN I HAVE TO FIGHT MORE EVIL PLOTS FROM A... A GHOST?

TUT TUT! FEAR NOT! I'VE COME BACK TO ATONE FOR MY WICKEDNESS! I'M NOT AN EVIL SPIRIT!

WHAT A MEAN OLD BLACKGUARD I WAS! I KEPT TRYING TO KILL BILLY AND RULE THE WORLD! THE WORLD IS SAFE FROM ME NOW!

AND TO PROVE MY WORTHY INTENTIONS, I'LL DO GOOD NOW! I'LL HELP THAT BOY GENIUS, DR. ATOM KNOX, AS A GHOST SCIENTIST! WE'LL INVENT WONDERFUL MACHINES TO HELP CIVILIZATION!

DO YOU MEAN IT? LET'S GO!

JEEPERS!! SIVANA!

DON'T BE ALARMED, DEXTER! IT'S JUST THE GHOST OF SIVANA, RETURNING TO ATONE FOR HIS EVIL DEEDS!

DEXTER, MY DEAR BOY! WE'RE GOING TO DO GREAT THINGS TOGETHER! I'M STILL A GREAT GENIUS, ALIVE OR DEAD! SUPPOSE WE INVENT A DEATH RAY TO WIPE OUT RATS?

Y YES SIR!

ALL'S GOING WELL! SIVANA'S GHOST IS PROVING HIMSELF GOOD, NOT EVIL! BILLY HAS NOTHING TO FEAR NOW!

SHAZAM!

PERHAPS EVEN MORE THAN CAPTAIN MARVEL, BILLY FEELS AS IF A MOUNTAIN HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS SHOULDERS!

WITH SIVANA DEAD AND GONE, I WON'T NEED THIS WARNING RING ANY MORE!

PRIVAT

WHEEE! WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING! MY LIFE IS NO LONGER IN CONSTANT DANGER!

THAT'S WHAT **YOU** THINK, BRAT! HEH HEH HEH HEH!

BONG!

GLUG!

WHEN BILLY'S SENSES RETURN, THE LAST IN A CHAIN OF BEWILDERING EVENTS STAGGERS HIM AGAIN!

YOU SEE, BILLY, I'M NOT REALLY A GHOST! I'M ALIVE AND JUST AS MEAN AS EVER! HEH HEH HEH!

MY DEATH WAS ALL A CLEVERLY PLANNED TRICK!. THAT PLANE THAT CRASHED WAS ON AUTOMATIC PILOT AT THE TIME!

I BAILED OUT RIGHT AFTER I SENT THAT BOMB TOWARD YOUR OFFICE!

HEH HEH!

THE "BODY" YOU NINCOMPOOPS BURIED WAS ONLY A DUMMY I MADE IN MY LABORATORY, USING A SECRET FLESH-LIKE PLASTIC!

CATCH ON, BILLY? MY SEEMING DEATH PUT BOTH YOU AND THAT BIG RED FAT-HEAD OFF GUARD! YOU THREW AWAY YOUR WARNING RING, ALLOWING ME TO SNEAK UP AND GET YOU AT LAST!

THE MAD MASTERMIND HAS PUT OVER HIS MOST CUNNING HOAX!

EEeeeEEeeeeEEeeeeEE

NOW I'LL---WHAT? POLICE SIRENS! HOW DID THE COPS TRAIL ME HERE?

BLAST THEM! THEY WON'T SPOIL MY MOMENT OF TRIUMPH! I'LL MOW THEM DOWN AS SOON AS THEY GET HERE!

EEeeeEEeeeeEEeeeeEE

THAT GIVES ME TIME TO DO SOMETHING! THAT BOTTLE OF ACID STEADY

[illegible] DOESN'T [illegible] ACT!

AH IT'S EATING AWAY MY GAG!

SHAZAM!

SPLITTING THUNDER ANNOUNCES THE MAGIC LIGHTNING THAT CHANGES BILLY TO CAPTAIN [illegible]

BOOM

I'LL BET YOU WISH YOU **WERE** A GHOST RIGHT NOW, SIVANA! YOU WOULDN'T FEEL THIS!

OW!

BOP!

THAT POLICE SIREN YOU THOUGHT YOU HEARD WAS ONLY BILLY'S DISCARDED RING OUT HERE! YOU WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO SET IT OFF! SO IT FINALLY TRAPPED YOU ANYWAY!

AAAH!

EEeeeEEeeeeEEeeeeEE

LATER

TOO BAD, FOLKS! SIVANA'S STILL AROUND - BUT SO IS CAPTAIN MARVEL! AND WHILE HE'S ON GUARD, SIVANA HASN'T A **GHOST** OF A CHANCE!

SANDMAN
HOW HE TURNS HIS STRANGE GIFT INTO AWESOME CRIME PAY ON OCCASION, HOW HE MEETS AND HOW HE FARES WITH THE SHADOW AND HOW YOU TOO CAN ENJOY THE TALE ARE TOLD IN THIS
(HOW) OFTEN YOU WISHED YOU KNEW THE ANSWER TO A CERTAIN PROBLEM... HOW MIRACULOUS IT WOULD BE IF YOU COULD THROW STICKLERS WITH OUT THOUGHT. NO ONE WAS EVER THAT SMART... AND YET THE CALCULATING ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION!...
UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN

AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF A CONCLAVE OF LEARNED MEN WHO MET TO BE ADDRESSED BY A PROFESSOR FROM A SMALL, OBSCURE COLLEGE...

ALL THAT I HAVE TOLD YOU IS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT GENTLEMEN...TO ME, THE BRAIN IS NO LONGER A MYSTERY... A COMPLEX THING!

MAN USES ONLY ONE QUARTER OF HIS BRAIN TO THINK WITH.. MY NEW TREATMENT CAN DEVELOP THE UNUSED BRAIN CELLS AND TRIPLE MAN'S THINKING POWER!

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS! .. ALL OF YOU!

YOUR HAT, SIR!.. PLEASE LEAVE AT ONCE!.. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE MUCH MORE TO DO THAN LISTEN TO THE IDIOTIC BABBLING OF A DAY-DREAMING FAKER!

MAKING HIS WAY TO HIS GARRET LABORATORY PROFESSOR HIRAM GAUNT PONDERED TO AVENGE HIS CULTURED MIND AGAINST THE INSULTS OF THE WORLD.

VIBRATIONS! REVITALIZING VIBRATIONS!.. BUILDING... ..DEVELOPING THOUSANDS OF UNUSED BRAIN CELLS!

KNOWLEDGE! VAST KNOWLEDGE! ...I CAN FEEL IT POURING .... INTO MY BRAIN.. ...OPENING..UNLOCKING THE NATURAL... AND SUPERNATURAL!

.. WHY.. I.. IT'S DOWNRIGHT UNCANNY!.. THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

NOW FOR ANOTHER TEST OF MY NEW-FOUND POWERS!

MEANWHILE LATER IN THE OFFICES OF THE GAZETTE GAUNT LEAVES HIS ISOLATED, LITTLE LABORATORY.

HELLO JED! GOING TO GET A NEW JOB, EH?

HUH? H. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT? I NEVER TOLD A SOUL ABOUT IT!

PROFESSOR GAUNT PITS HIS DEVITAL-IZED BRAIN AGAINST THE ABILITIES OF A PROFESSIONAL CHESS-PLAYER

THAT'S THE EIGHTH GAME YOU'VE WON!.. IF YOU'RE NOT THE WORLD'S CHAMP, I DON'T KNOW WHO IS!

HE'S A NEIRD CHARACTER, BUT HE CERTAINLY CLEANED OUT THE HOUSE!

DON'T EVER LET HIM PLAY HERE ANY MORE! HE'S A HUMAN ADDING MACHINE!

MY NEW POWERS CAN MAKE ME THE WORLD'S WEALTHIEST MAN!.. THESE ARE SMALL STAKES.. MY NEXT STOP SHALL BE THE BANKS!!

LATER IN A GAMBLING CASINO..

That night.. AS THE MOONLIGHT [illegible] ON THE ROOFTOPS OF MANHATTAN, TWO FIGURES SWING THRU SPACE ON THE ALERT AGAINST CRIME!

EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE UNDER CONTROL!

SANDMAN!.. LOOK!

THAT MAN LOOKS LIKE HE'S OUT TO ROB THE BANK!

THOSE DOORS ARE BOLTED... HOW DOES HE EXPECT TO GET INSIDE?

THIS ISN'T DIFFICULT AT ALL!.. THE RATIO OF TUMBLERS AND THEIR PROPORTIONATE TURNS PER REVOLUTION EQUAL THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER... THE RIGHT COMBINATION!

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE HE'S OPENED THE DOORS... DOORS THAT WOULD DEFY THE BEST CRACKSMEN FOR MONTHS!

HE LEFT THE BANK DOOR OPEN!.. LET'S FOLLOW HIM!

SOMEONE'S COMING!.. THEY'LL SOON BE ON ME IN SPLIT SECONDS!

COF!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST TO OVERCOME THESE GNOOPERS!

OW!

THAT'LL TAKE THE WIND OUT OF YOU!

I GUESS I'LL OPEN AN ACCOUNT AND LEAVE YOU BOYS AS MY FIRST DEPOSIT!

THEY'LL BE SHUT IN THERE TILL MORNING... LONG ENOUGH TO SUF-FOCATE!

THE SANDMAN, INSIDE THE VAULT...

LOCKED IN TIGHTER THAN A MOUSE IN A TRAP!

YOU ALL RIGHT, SANDY?

I GUESS I'LL LIVE... BOY, WHAT A WALLOP I GOT! GOSH, WHAT DO WE DO NOW, SANDMAN?

THE AIR IN HERE WILL LAST US ABOUT ANOTHER HOUR... ...AFTER THAT...

I OUGHT TO BE ALARMED ...BUT I'M NOT!

ALARM!! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE?

AS THE BURGLAR ALARM INTO ACTION. THE DANCEMAN AND SANDY VEST ON RESULTS...

CLANG CLANG CLANG

A MINUTE LATER THE GREAT VAULT DOOR SWUNG OPEN TO ADMIT A SQUAD OF ARMED POLICE!

UP WITH 'EM, YOU GUYS!

THAT'S A NICE RECEPTION!

HEY! LOOK OUT! EEK!

COME ON, KID!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

NOW I KNOW HOW A CLAY PIGEON FEELS!

I WISH I HAD SOME WINGS!

REACHING THE OUTSIDE, THE DANCEMAN DRAWS HIS MACHINE GUN AND FIRES AT A NEARBY BUILDING!

COME ON, SANDY! AIM FOR THAT LEDGE!

UP WE GO!

AND OUT OF REACH OF THOSE GUNS! PHEW!

MEANWHILE, DOWN BELOW....

I COULD HAVE SWORN THEY CAME OUT THIS WAY!

ONLY EAGLES COULD GET AWAY SO FAST!

The Next Morning, WEB DODDS AND YOUNG SANDY READ THE NEWSPAPERS..

HERE'S AN ACCOUNT OF THE BANK AFFAIR. THOSE LOCKS WERE THE BEST MADE!.. IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO OPEN THEM AS FAST AS THAT MAN D'D!

THAT GUY MUST BE A MATHEMATICAL WIZARD TO SOLVE THE COMBINATION OF THAT INTRICATE LOCK IN SUCH QUICK TIME!

EXACTLY, SANDY..HE MUST BE A GENIUS... AND THAT BANK JOB WAS A MASTER-PIECE..IT SHOULD MAKE HIM VERY COCKY... THAT'S WHY WE'LL TRAP HIM!

BUT WE HAVE TO FIND HIM TO TRAP HIM!

I'VE GOT A LEAD ON THAT NOW! . . LOOK HERE, SANDY!

READ THIS ITEM.. A PROFESSIONAL CHAMPION CHESS PLAYER LOSES EIGHT GAMES IN A ROW IN AS MANY MINUTES TO A TALL, THIN STRANGER WHO CALMLY LEAVES THE CHESS VETERAN GASPING!

NOW, THAT'S QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT ...AND I THINK THAT'S OUR MAN! COME ON, KID!.. I'VE GOT A PLAN...

OKAY, WEB!.. I'M READY FOR ACTION!

IN THE MEANTIME, THE EYES OF THE UNDERWORLD HAVE ALSO NOTICED THE NEWSPAPERS!

WELL... LOOKIT DIG! BOY!.. WHAT A NIFTY JOB! [illegible]!..

SOME MUG ROBBED THE NATIONAL BANK! HE WALKS THROUGH A MESS O STEEL VAULTS AND MAKES A CLEAN GET-AWAY WIT' A FORTUNE!

SOUNDS LIKE A SMART EGG!

AN' HERE'S A GUY WOT WINS AT ROULETTE ALL THE TIME! HE NEVER MISSES!

SOUNDS LIKE THE SAME BIRD! GO OUT AND FIND HIM I CAN USE THAT BABY!

WES DOODS, MEANWHILE, HAS RENTED THE CHESS CONCESSION AND HAS INSTALLED A CHESS-PLAYING ROBOT WHICH HE PURCHASED FROM AN OLD MUSEUM!

THINK YOU'LL GET RESULTS WITH OLD ICON BRAINS, WES?

MYSTO THE CHESS ROBOT WILL WIN $15.

WE'VE BEEN HERE A COUPLE OF DAYS NOW AND I'VE INSERTED ADS BOASTING ABOUT OUR MECHANICAL EINSTEIN.. ...BUT NOBODY'S TURNED UP YET!

TWO DAYS LATER, WHEN WES BEGINS TO THINK HIS PLAN HAS FAILED, PROFESSOR GAUNT ENTERS THE CHESS-CONCESSION...

HA! THE PERFECT TEST... THE BRAIN AGAINST A CALCULATING MACHINE!!

SANDY, LOOK AT THAT MAN!

HE LOOKS LIKE THE GUY WE FOUGHT IN THE BANK VAULTS!

RIGHT!. BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE... LET'S GO.. WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

GAUNT ENGAGES THE HORRIBLE ROBOT IN THE MOST AMAZING CHESS GAME IN HISTORY...

THIS ROBOT IS AN EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER!

FIVE STALEMATED GAMES!... NEITHER OF US CAN WIN!.. I'LL RETIRE GRACEFULLY!

WHILE GAUNT LEAVES...

THAT GUY WAS SOME PLAYER... HE KEPT ME SEARCHING THROUGH THESE CHESS BOOKS UNTIL I WAS ROGGY!. I COULDN'T SIGNAL YOU BECAUSE I GOT STUCK AND COULDN'T GET OUT!

STILL LATER... THE ROBOT IS DISMANTLED AND SHIPPED BACK TO THE MUSEUM!

THAT ROBOT WAS A GOOD IDEA!

I COULD NOT ARREST HIM ON SUSPICION ALONE!

WES AND SANDY TRAIL PROFESSOR GAUNT TO A ROADSIDE GAMBLING CASINO.

HE'S COME TO THE SAME PLACE THE PAPER REPORTED HE BROKE.. THAT IS, IF HE'S THE RIGHT MAN!

INSIDE THE ROADHOUSE, GAUNT IS SPOTTED BY TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

THERE HE IS, HUNKY. THAT'S THE BIRD WHO BROKE US!

EASY. I'M GONNA PROPOSITION HIM!

BEEN PULLIN' SOME NEAT JOBS AROUND TOWN, DOC!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

DON'T GIMME THAT! MY BOSS GOT A HOT DEAL FER YA!. LET'S TALK ABOUT IT IN SOME QUIET SPOT!

HMMM... ..WEE NIGHT...

AS GAUNT AND HUNKY WITHDRAW TO AN OFFICE, GAUNT IS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY HIS OLD JANITOR

HELLO, PROFESSOR ..YOU SEE? I GOT MY NEW JOB.. YOU WERE RIGHT?!

ER.. HELLO!

SAY, WHO WAS THAT TALL, THIN MAN WHO JUST WENT BY, OLD-TIMER?

WHY, THAT WAS PROFESSOR GAUNT! HE CAN READ YOUR MIND LIKE A BOOK! HE WROTE SOME STUFF ON IMPROVIN' THE BRAIN VIBRATIONS!!

MEANWHILE, WES AND SANDY HAVE BEEN WATCHING GAUNT'S EVERY MOVE!

SANDY! THAT OLD MAN KNOWS HIM!

LET'S FIND OUT WHO HE IS!

SUDDENLY.. WES AND SANDY FIND THEMSELVES AT THE MERCY OF HUNKY'S POSTED HENCHMEN!

GLOAM, PORTER! YOU TWO NOSEYS COME WITH US!

WES AND SANDY ARE HERDED INTO AN INNER OFFICE..

ALRIGHT SNOOPER, WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED IN THE PROF?

WE READ OF HIS WINNING WAYS IN THE PAPER.. WE THOUGHT WE COULD HELP CASH IN ON HIS TALENT!

THEY SAY THAT HIS CAPTIVES ARE THE SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD, THE GANG LEADER HAS THEM EJECTED!

AND DON'T COME BACK!

Rounding A DARKENED CORNER BEHIND THE CASINO, WES AND SANDY MAKE A LIGHTNING CHANGE IN COSTUME!

NOW WE KNOW THAT GAUNT IS THE ROBBER!

TIME TO RIDE EH, SANDMAN?

THE NEXT MOMENT, TWO HUMAN BULLETS HURTLE THROUGH THE GANGSTERS' WINDOW!

I..IT'S THE MAN WHO ALMOST GOT ME THE OTHER NIGHT!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE WERE INTRODUCED FOR MALLY!

YOU CAN CHARGE THIS TO THE SANDMAN AND THE GOLDEN BOY!

Meanwhile, THE GANG CHIEF FEELS THE MIGHT OF TWO-FISTED JUSTICE!

CRACK!

JUST AT THAT MOMENT A GROUP OF HUNKY'S THUGS TEARS INTO THE FRAY, TURNING IT INTO A CONFUSING MELEE!

POW

SANDY! CALL THE RIOT SQUAD WHILE I FINISH OFF THESE NOODLUMS!

RIGHT, SANDMAN!

YEAH! YOU BETTER GET HERE FAST... AND BRING SOME AMBULANCES!

LATER, THE POLICE RIOT SQUAD ARRIVES!

COME ON, BOYS!.. BRING THOSE TEAR GAS BOMBS!

HURRY UP! I CAN HEAR THE RACKET FROM HERE!

COME IN, GENTLEMEN! OUR LITTLE SHINDIG IS OVER!

WHAT HIT THIS PLACE.... A CYCLONE?

BALDY, OVER THERE, IS YOUR BANK ROBBER.. KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, OR HE'LL WALK OUT ON YOU!.. SO LONG!

LATER, PROFESSOR CAINT IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...

SO YOU'RE THE GUY WHO CAN ANSWER ANY PROBLEM, EH?

THEY GOT AWAY AGAIN!

NO, I'M NOT, OFFICER I'VE STILL THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO ESCAPE THE SANDMAN!!

LEGION of SUPER-HEROES™

OW-WW! THE HEAT OF KRANYAK'S FIRE MISSILES IS SCORCHING ME! IF THAT CRIMINAL SCORES A DIRECT HIT, I'LL BE DONE FOR!

HA, HA! LOOK AT SUN-BOY RUNNING AND DODGING LIKE A CORNERED RAT. ONCE, HIS BODY COULD GENERATE THE TREMENDOUS HEAT OF A STAR, BUT NOW THAT HE'S LOST HIS SUN-POWER ABILITY HE'S VULNERABLE TO THE MENACE OF THIS FIRE-MISSILE WEAPON!

EVERY LAW-ABIDING PERSON ADMIRES THE FABULOUS **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES** OF THE DISTANT FUTURE. FOR THEIR SPECTACULAR MIGHT AND THE ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS MEMBERS IN BEHALF OF JUSTICE ARE LEGENDARY THROUGHOUT A THOUSAND GALAXIES! WRONG-DOERS EVERYWHERE FEAR THE LEGIONNAIRES, EACH OF WHOM POSSESSES A UNIQUE SUPER-POWER. BUT ONE TERRIBLE DAY, DOERS OF EVIL GLOAT DELIGHTEDLY, CHEERED BY NEWS THAT A DISTRESSING CALAMITY HAS BEFALLEN THE LEGION YOUTH KNOWN AS **SUN-BOY**. READ ON AND LEARN ALL ABOUT...

SUN-BOY'S LOST POWER!

STORY JERRY SIEGEL
ART: JOHN FORTE

ONE DAY, IN THE CITY OF **METROPOLIS** IN THE 21ST CENTURY, AS SEVERAL **SUPER-HEROES** SOAR AWAY FROM THE 'R' CLUBHOUSE...

LET'S GO, LEGIONNAIRES!

WE'RE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AT **METROPOLIS STADIUM** FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW!

SHORTLY, AT THE STADIUM

TODAY, THE MAYOR IS GOING TO UNVEIL THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF STATUES HONORING US! PERHAPS STATUE NO. 1 WILL HAVE YOUR LIKENESS, **COSMIC BOY!**

PERSONALLY, **SUNBOY**, I THINK IT'LL BE A **SATURN GIRL** STATUE!

* THE LEGIONNAIRES FLY WITH THE AID OF THEIR ANTI-GRAVITY BELTS — Ed.

AS THE STATUE IS UNVEILED, THE MAYOR ANNOUNCES:..

BEHOLD...A **STATUE OF -- SUN-BOY**... ONE OF THE MOST GALLANT LEGIONNAIRES OF THEM ALL!

:GULP!:--I'M THRILLED!

AT A TOUCH OF THIS BUTTON, BLINDING BRILLIANCE STREAMS FORTH FROM THE STATUE...IN IMITATION OF YOUR FABULOUS **SUN-POWER!**

GEE

:CHOKE:--I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS GREAT HONOR!

BUT UNEXPECTEDLY

:GASP!:--THE STATUE'S SUPPORTS ARE--COLLAPSING! THE HUGE METAL FIGURE IS BEGINNING TO TIP OVER TOWARD SOME SPECTATORS! THEY'LL BE KILLED!

STAND BACK, EVERYONE! I'LL HANDLE THIS EMERGENCY...!

..BY MELTING DOWN THE METAL STATUE BEFORE IT CAN STRIKE ANYONE!

GOOD WORK, **SUN-BOY!** TOO BAD YOU HAD TO DESTROY YOUR OWN STATUE, THOUGH!

PRESENTLY, AS DARKNESS DESCENDS; AND THE **SUPER-HEROES** WHIZ AWAY FROM THE STADIUM..

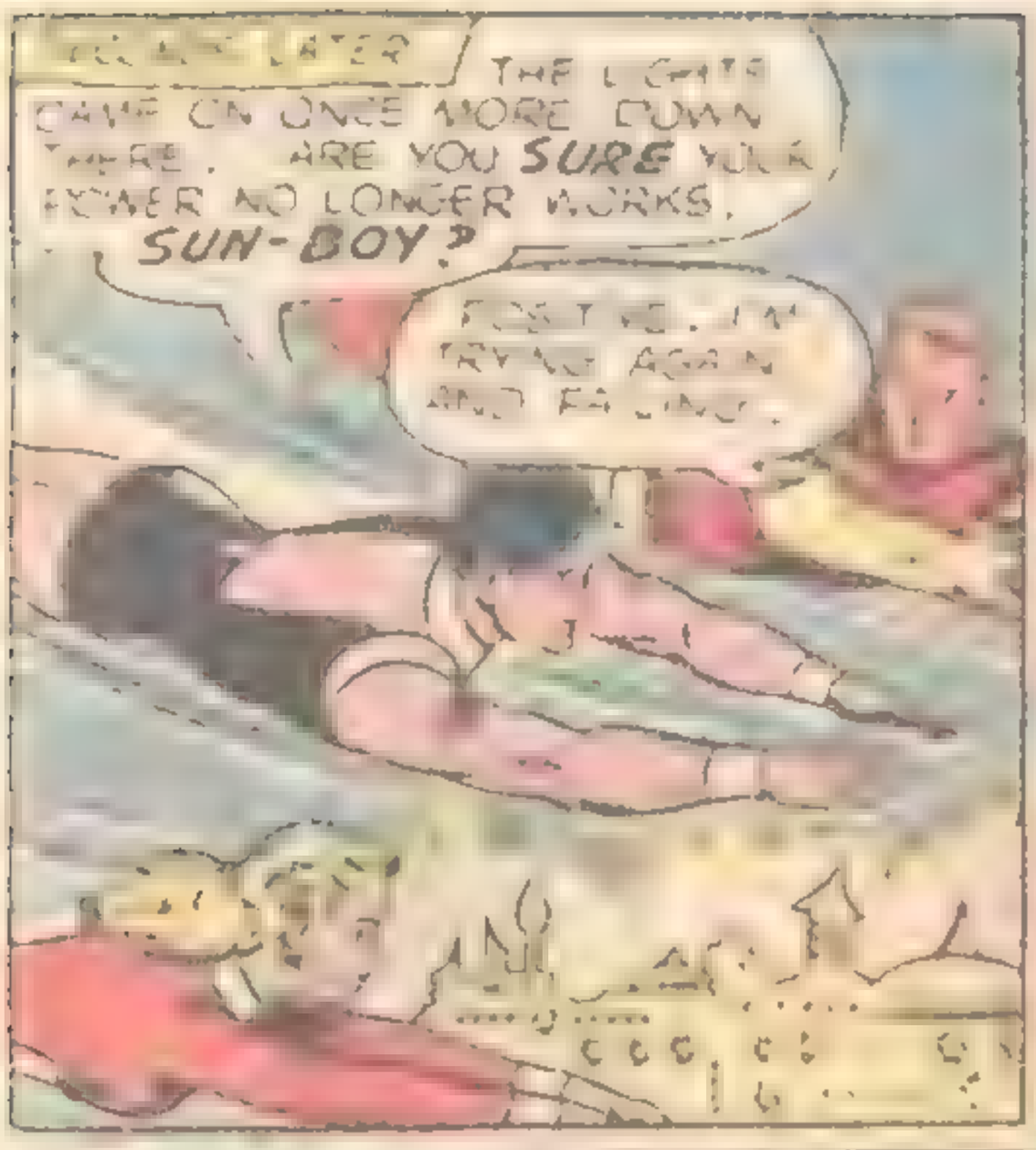
IT MAY TAKE THEM MONTHS TO BUILD ANOTHER **SUN-BOY** STATUE!

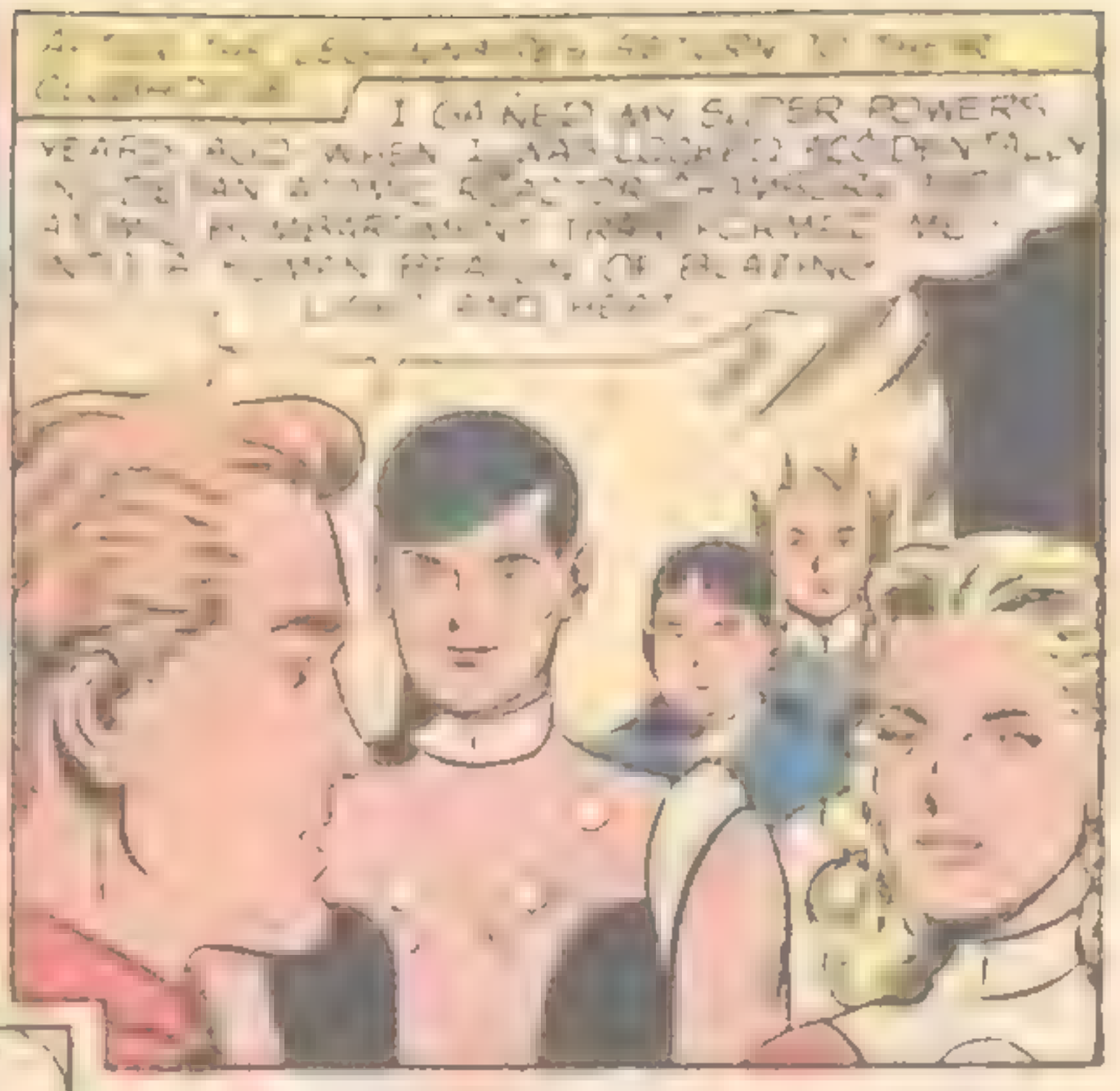
BUT LIVES WERE SAVED! THAT'S WHAT REALLY MATTERS!

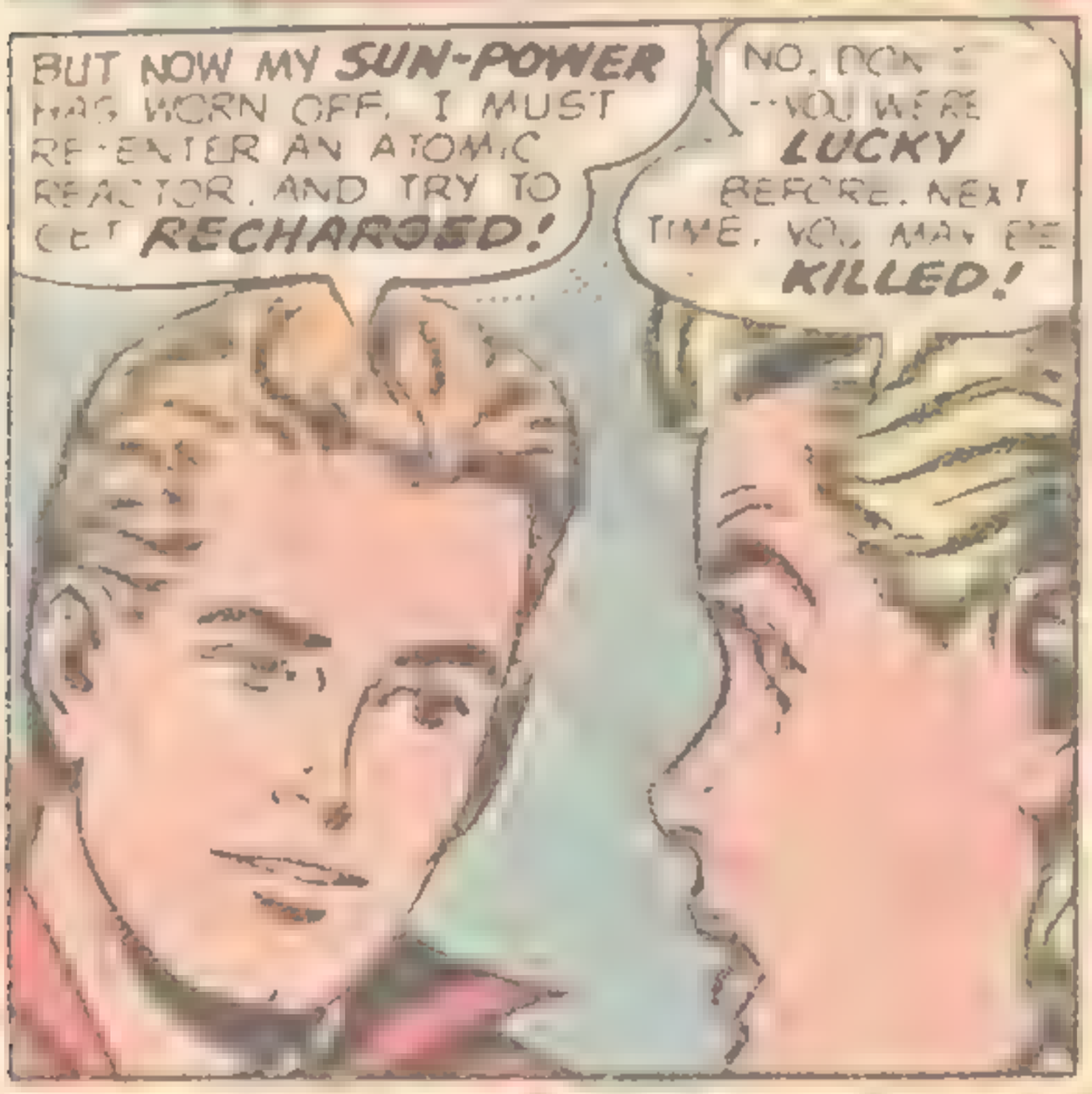
SUDDENLY...

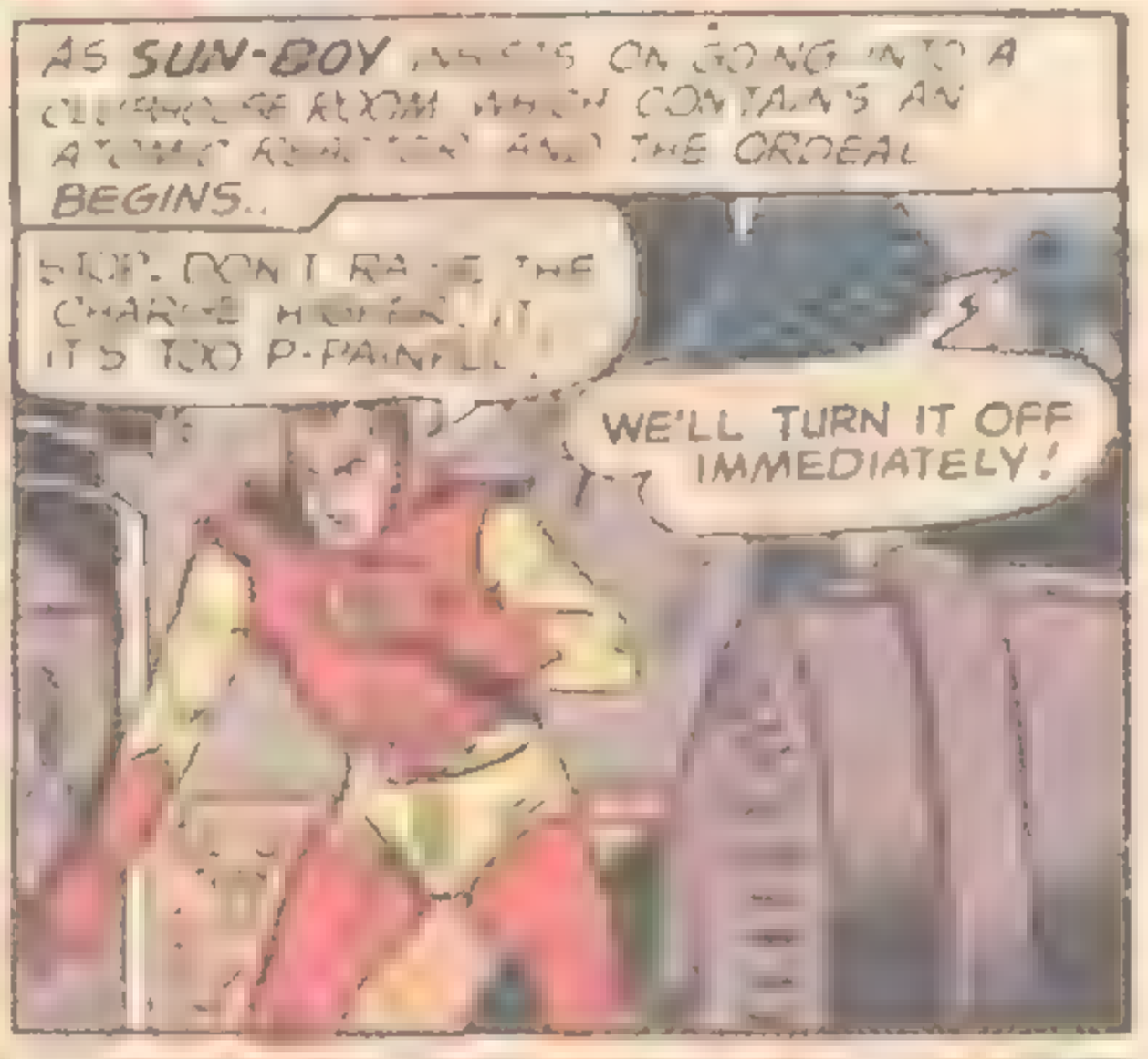
OH-OH! THE CITY'S LIGHTS WENT OUT BELOW! IT'S PROBABLY DUE TO A POWER-PLANT FAILURE!

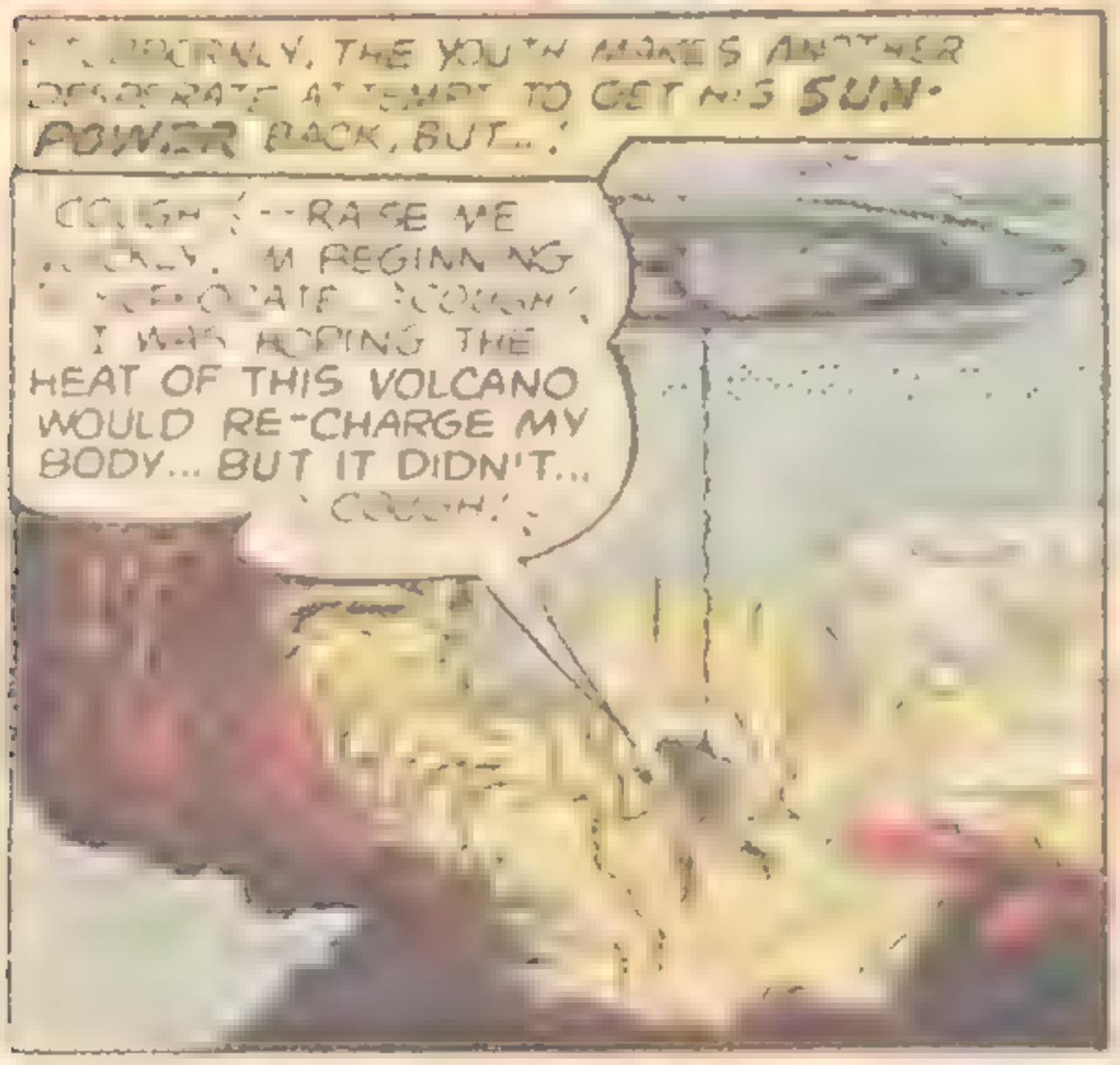
I'LL ILLUMINATE THE CITY BY CAUSING A DAZZLING BRILLIANCE TO RADIATE FROM MY BODY!--ULP! I **CAN'T LIGHT UP,** NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY!

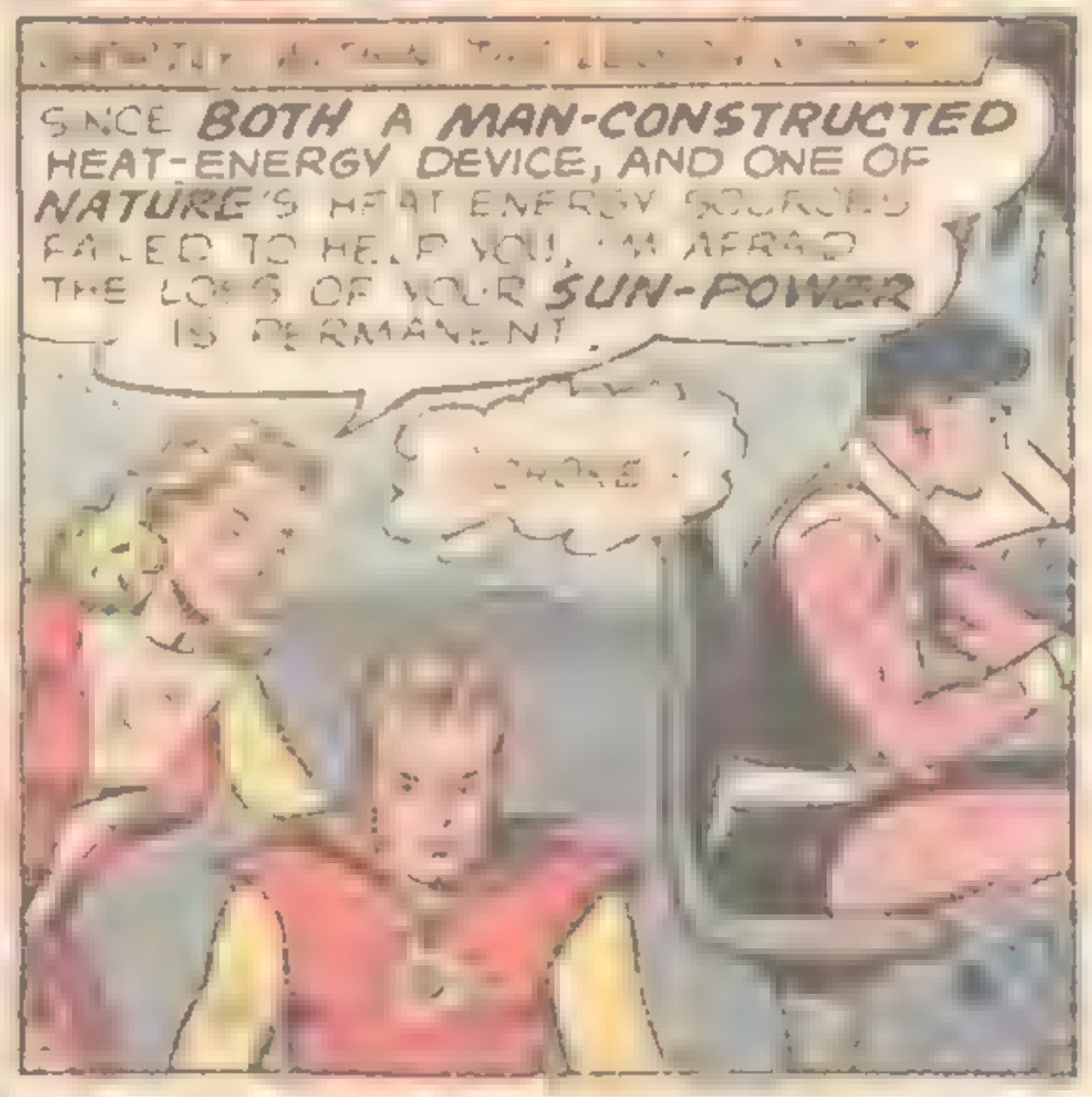

SOME LATER
THE LIGHTS CAME ON ONCE MORE DOWN THERE. ARE YOU SURE YOUR POWER NO LONGER WORKS, SUN-BOY?
FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M TRYING AGAIN AND FAILING!


I OWNED MY SUPER POWERS


BUT NOW MY SUN-POWER HAS WORN OFF. I MUST RE-ENTER AN ATOMIC REACTOR, AND TRY TO GET RECHARGED!
NO, DON'T --YOU WERE LUCKY BEFORE. NEXT TIME, YOU MAY BE KILLED!


AS SUN-BOY AND CHRIS GO ON GOING INTO A CLOSE-UP ROOM WHICH CONTAINS AN ATOMIC REACTION AND THE ORDEAL BEGINS..
STOP. DON'T RAISE THE CHARGE HIGHER... IT'S TOO P-PAINFUL!
WE'LL TURN IT OFF IMMEDIATELY!


FINALLY, THE YOUTH MAKES ANOTHER DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO GET HIS SUN-POWER BACK, BUT...!
COUGH!--RAISE ME HIGHER. I'M BEGINNING TO RE-OXIDATE! COUGH! I WAS HOPING THE HEAT OF THIS VOLCANO WOULD RE-CHARGE MY BODY... BUT IT DIDN'T... COUGH!


SINCE BOTH A MAN-CONSTRUCTED HEAT-ENERGY DEVICE, AND ONE OF NATURE'S HEAT ENERGY SOURCES FAILED TO HELP YOU, I'M AFRAID THE LOSS OF YOUR SUN-POWER IS PERMANENT.
CHRIS!

AT THE **SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE** NEXT DAY A GUEST ENTOMOLOGIST ARRIVES BEARING PRESENTS

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS GIFT A COLLECTION OF STRANGE INSECTS FROM OTHER PLANETS IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR MANY GOOD DEEDS IN BEHALF OF SCIENTISTS LIKE MYSELF!

SPEAKING FOR THE LEGION, I THANK YOU!

THIS **WINGED WAMPUS** IS MOST FASCINATING. WHILE ATTRACTING PREY WITH ITS [illegible] FORM, IT RELEASES A DEADLY GAS THAT DESTROYS ITS FOE: DRAT MY PIPE WENT OUT! MAY I PLEASE HAVE A LIGHT, SOMEONE?

CERTAINLY

SUN-BOY! YOUR **SUN-POWER RETURNED!!**

BUT ONLY FOR AN **INSTANT** .. WHEN I MOMENTARILY FORGOT I HAD THE POWER, I CAN'T MAKE IT WORK AGAIN! - BUT WHAT MADE IT FLARE BACK INTO EXISTENCE MOMENTARILY?

SOON AFTER THE LEGION'S GUEST LEAVES

HELLO, FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES! I JUST ARRIVED FROM OUT OF THE PAST!

SIT DOWN, **SUPERBOY!** TOO, **ULTRA-BOY, BOUNCING BOY** AND OTHER LATE ARRIVALS. THE MEETING WILL NOW COME TO ORDER.

MINUTES LATER.

FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES, THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S GATHERING IS A SAD ONE. **SUN-BOY** HAS LOST THE SUPER POWER WHICH MAKES HIM ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP! WITHOUT IT, ACCORDING TO OUR RULES, HE CAN'T BELONG TO OUR CLUB

WAIT...

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE ATOMIC REACTOR AND THE VOLCANO'S HEAT DIDN'T RESTORE MY **SUN-POWER** PERHAPS THE COMBINED MIGHT OF **SUPERBOY'S HEAT VISION** AND **ULTRA-BOY'S FLASH-VISION** WOULD SUCCEED.

WILLING TO [illegible]

PRESENTLY, AS AN ODD DEVICE IS ERECTED OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE

THE REFLECTORS WILL FOCUS **SUPERBOY**'S AND **ULTRA-BOY**'S HEAT-RAYS DOWN ON ME! IF THEY SEE IT ISN'T ACCOMPLISHING ITS PURPOSE, THEY'LL DECREASE THE RAYS' INTENSITY BEFORE ANY HARM'S DONE!

AN INSTANT LATER...

CHOKE!--GOOD TRY, FRIENDS! BUT THE EXPERIMENT HAS FAILED! MY **SUN-POWER** HASN'T RETURNED! I'LL HAVE TO RESIGN FROM THE **LEGION!**--CHOKE!

AND SO THE LEGION MEETING RESUMES

DIRK MORGNA, THAT'S YOUR **REAL** NAME, FOR YOU NO LONGER ARE **SUN-BOY**... IT IS MY UNHAPPY DUTY TO TELL YOU THAT WE...ER.. MUST EXPEL YOU FROM OUR CLUB!

PLEASE TAKE BACK YOUR NAMEPLATE AND FIGURINE! AND REMOVE YOUR OTHER TROPHIES AND BELONGINGS OUT OF YOUR LOCKER, TOO! I'M SORRY OUR ASSOCIATION MUST END LIKE THIS

...SUN BOY!

AFTER THE MEETING

I'LL MISS YOU TERRIBLY, **SUN-BOY!** THE LEGION WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU, SUN-BOY!

GOODBYE, **SUN-BOY!**

YOU'RE THE BEST FRIENDS A FELLOW EVER HAD! I'LL THINK OF YOU OFTEN--

LATER, AT **SUN-BOY**'S HOME

CALLING THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!** EMERGENCY! A SUB-OCEANIC LINER HAS DEVELOPED **ENGINE-TROUBLE AND IS SINKING! THOUSANDS OF LIVES ARE AT STAKE!**

I'LL TUNE IN THE **PORTA-MONITOR!**

5

SHORTLY

A FORMATION OF LEGIONNAIRES IS FLYING TO THE RESCUE!--CHOKE!--ONCE, I WOULD HAVE BEEN PART OF THAT RESCUE MISSION! BUT NOW, I'VE GOT TO SIT IDLY BY, AND JUST WATCH!

THEY'VE REACHED THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER! **COSMIC BOY**'S DRAWING THE SUB-OCEANIC LINER UP OUT OF THE SEA WITH HIS POWER OF SUPER-MAGNETISM! HE'LL FLY IT SAFELY TO SHORE!--OH! I HEAR SOMEONE AT THE DOOR!

AN HOUR AFTER HE'S MISSED CALLER

WHEN YOU TOOK THE **PORTA-MONITOR** FROM YOUR LOCKER, YOU MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN IT'S THE PROPERTY OF THE LEGION! I'VE BEEN SENT TO TAKE IT BACK!

BEING UPSET MADE ME ABSENT-MINDED! HERE, TAKE IT, **BOUNCING BOY!**

MEANWHILE, AT A NEARBY PRISON...

EVERYONE'S SORRY **SUN-BOY** LOST HIS SUPER-POWER! NOT YOU, THOUGH, EH, **KRANYAK?** HE'S THE ONE WHO CAUGHT YOU! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SERVING A LONG SENTENCE HERE!

A MIN. LATER-YOUR BODY SUDDENLY CHANGED INTO A GASEOUS FORM! I **CAN'T** HOLD ONTO YOU!

CHUCKLE!--THANKS TO THE WONDER PILL WHICH WAS SMUGGLED TO ME BY PALS ON THE OUTSIDE!--NOW IT'S SIMPLE INDEED TO ESCAPE!

LATER, MATERIALIZED INTO SOLID FORM ONCE MORE AS THE PILL'S EFFECT WEARS OFF, **KRANYAK** RESTS HIS LAURELS..

WE'RE GOING TO PULL BIGGER CRIMES THAN EVER, BOYS... BUT FIRST, I'M GOING TO MAKE THAT BURNED-OUT EX **SUN-BOY** VERY, VERY SORRY HE TURNED ME OVER TO THE LAW!

THAT EVENING, WHILE STROLLING THROUGH A DESERTED SECTION, DARK IS THINKING BACK ABOUT HOW TRAGICALLY HIS LIFE HAS BEEN CHANGED, WHEN SUDDENLY...

YOU USED TO THINK YOU WERE PRETTY **BRIGHT**, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT VOICE SOUNDS VAGUELY...FAMILIAR!

SOMEONE'S FIRING EXPLODING FLARES!

WHO ARE YOU? I CAN'T SEE YOU!

DON'T TELL ME THAT **YOU**, WHOSE RADIANCE WAS ONCE AS GREAT AS A STAR'S, IS NOW BOTHERED BY SOME MERE LIGHT-FLASHES

I'M **KRANYAK!** I SWORE I'D BE AVENGED AGAINST YOU SOME DAY, REMEMBER!-- TO ADD TO OUR FUN...HAVE SOME **FIREBALLS!**

;GASP!;-- THE HEAT...SCORCHING!

WHY DON'T YOU TURN ON YOUR **SUN-POWER** AND DEFEAT ME, **SUN-BOY?** CAN'T, EH? WHAT A SHAME!..I COULD FINISH YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET OFF **THAT** EASY: I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU **REALLY** SUFFER!

I'LL DESTROY YOUR BUDDIES, THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!** **HOW** I'M GOING TO ACCOMPLISH IT IS **MY** SECRET! BUT BE ASSURED OF ONE THING... **I WON'T FAIL!**

KRANYAK DOESN'T MAKE IDLE BOASTS! I MUST ALERT THE LEGION TO ITS PERIL!

AND SO...

THANKS FOR THE WARNING!

I SURE WISH I HAD MY LOST SUPER-POWER BACK SO I COULD HELP NAB **KRANYAK** BEFORE HE CAN HARM MY FRIENDS! WAIT! I'M GETTING AN IDEA!!

OFF TO A DISTANT WORLD FLIES DIRK, IN A ONE MAN ROCKET SHIP

DEAD AHEAD THE PLANET **LUANA!** IT'S FAMED THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE FOR THE GREAT VARIETY OF FANTASTIC CREATURES THAT INHABIT IT INCLUDING **KRYPTONIAN FLAME-BEASTS** HATCHED FROM EGGS ONCE DEPOSITED THERE!

A...**RADIATION-BLAST**... A **HYPNO-BEAST**... AND WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR ESPECIALLY A **FLAME-BEAST!!**

IMMEDIATELY, DIRK LOCATES INTO HIDING AND AWAITS THE APPROACHING CREATURE

THIS RAY-GUN WON'T HARM THE INVULNERABLE CREATURE, BUT BEING ATTACKED MAY ANGER IT! I HOPE!

GOOD! I MERELY ANNOYED HIM, SO HE'S FIRING HIS FLAME-BREATH AT ME! AS I FIGURED--I-I'M UNHARMED...BUT THE TREE BESIDE ME IS BEING BURNT TO A CRISP. I THINK MY PLAN HAS WORKED! NOW TO MAKE SURE!

MIGHTILY, DIRK CONCENTRATES, AND IN RESPONSE

WOW! I'M GLOWING! AS I HOPED IT WOULD, THE BEAST'S FLAME-BREATH HAS RE-CHARGED MY BODY AND RESTORED MY **SUN-POWER!** HOW--WONDERFUL! GOSH, I'M HAPPY!

BACK TO HIS **SUN-BOY** IDENTITY

NOW FOR A SURPRISE SHOWDOWN WITH KRANYAK! THAT CHARACTER'S GOING TO GET THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF HIS VILLAINOUS CAREER.

DELIBERATELY, SUN-BOY [illegible] SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE...

THE LEGIONNAIRES ENTERED A LITTLE WHILE AGO, SO I KNOW THEY'RE STILL ALIVE! WHEN **KRANYAK** STRIKES AGAIN, I'LL BE READY! OH-OH... IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!

SHORTLY.

HERE COMES A FLYING-PLATFORM WITH **KRANYAK** AND SOME OF HIS EVIL CRONIES ON IT! A LARGE RAY-PROJECTOR ABOARD IS AIMED **UPWARD!** WHAT DEVILTRY DOES HE PLAN?

ABOARD THE PLATFORM

;CHUCKLE; OUR **FREEZE-RAY** IS SOLIDIFYING THE RAIN INTO A GREAT CHUNK OF ICE THE SIZE OF A MOUNTAIN!

WHEN IT CRASHES DOWN ONTO THE CLUBHOUSE, THAT'LL FINISH OFF THE **SUPER-HEROES** WHO ARE INSIDE!

OUT OF HIDING LEAPS THE [illegible] YOUTH.

MUST DESTROY THAT FALLING COLOSSAL ICEBERG, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! HOORAY! MY **SUN-POWER**'S TURNING IT BACK INTO RAIN AGAIN!

URK! THE KID'S SUPER AGAIN!

NOW TO ELIMINATE THAT TROUBLE-MAKING RAY!

YIPE!... H-HE'S MELTING THE **FREEZE-RAY PROJECTOR** DOWN INTO... SLAG!

AS THE INCREDIBLE LAD EMANATES A LESSER HEAT-CHARGE TOWARD THE CROOKS...

AGH-HH! -- I'M SIZZLING!

CAN'T--STAND--THIS! IT'S,, TOO HOT! STOP, SUN-BOY! W-WE'LL LAND AND SURRENDER!

DO IT, PRONTO!

PRESENTLY...

GOOD WORK, SUN-BOY!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SAVING OUR LIVES! BUT HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU EVER GET YOUR LOST SUPER-POWER BACK?

REMEMBER TELLING ME MY LOSS WAS PERMANENT BECAUSE **BOTH** A MAN-CONSTRUCTED HEAT-ENERGY DEVICE, AND ONE OF NATURE'S HEAT-ENERGY SOURCES, HAD FAILED TO HELP ME?

YES! BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...

"WELL, AFTER I WARNED YOU OF **KRANYAK'S** THREAT, I RECALLED THAT WHEN I GOT MY **SUN-POWER** BACK MOMENTARILY IN THE CLUBHOUSE, I WAS STANDING NEAR SOME GIANT GLOWING **FIREFLIES** PROFESSOR HARDING HAD BROUGHT US

SUDDENLY, I REALIZED THAT EXPOSURE TO THE FIREFLIES' RADIANCE HAD MOMENTARILY RE-CHARGED ME... I THEORIZED, THEN, THAT A POWERFUL BLAST OF HEAT-ENERGY FROM A **LIVING BEING** MIGHT RESTORE MY **SUN-POWER** COMPLETELY!

SEEKING OUT A **FLAME-BEAST**, I PROVOKED HIM INTO USING HIS FLAME-BREATH ON ME! AS I'D HOPED, THE CREATURE'S HEAT BLASTS MADE ME A **SUN-BOY** AGAIN!

WAIT! **SUPERBOY** AND **ULTRA-BOY** FAILED TO RESTORE YOUR POWER WITH THEIR **HEAT-VISION** AND **FLASH-VISION**... YET **THEY'RE** LIVING BEINGS! EXPLAIN **THAT!!**

EASILY, THEY **AREN'T** HUMAN! THEY'RE ROBOTS! SEE?!?

:GASP!: --YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT...HOW DID **YOU** KNOW, WHEN THE REST OF US DIDN'T ?!?

"I DIDN'T KNOW AT FIRST! BUT I GOT A CLUE FROM WHAT I SAW ON THE **PORTA-MONITOR**. WHEN **COSMIC BOY** USED HIS SUPER-MAGNETISM TO MAKE THE SUPER-OCEANIC LINER, **SUPERBOY** AND **ULTRA-BOY** WERE DRAWN OUT OF FORMATION TOWARD HIM! I WONDERED--WHY?..."

THEN I REALIZED THEY WERE **ROBOTS** WHOSE **METAL** BODIES WERE ATTRACTED **MAGNETICALLY** TOWARD **COSMIC BOY**! ONCE I DEDUCED THIS, I WENT TO THE PLANET **LURNA** TO TEST MY HUNCH THAT THE FLAME-BREATH OF A **LIVING CREATURE** COULD RESTORE MY **SUN-POWER!**

FORTUNATELY FOR ME, MY GAMBLE PROVED SUCCESSFUL!

THERE'S STILL ONE UNANSWERED QUESTION. WHY DIDN'T THE **SUPERBOY** AND **ULTRA-BOY** ROBOTS TELL US THAT THEY WERE **AUTOMATONS?**

PERHAPS THEY CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION THEMSELVES WHEN I REPAIR THESE TAPES WHICH APPEAR DAMAGED! ...THERE, I'M FINISHED! SPEAK, ROBOTS!

"THANK YOU FOR FIXING THE TAPES, **SUN-BOY!**... NOW WE CAN EXPLAIN THAT THE REAL **ULTRA-BOY** JOINED **SUPERBOY** IN THE PAST TO HELP HIM CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF PETE ROSS, THEIR **SMALLVILLE** FRIEND."

WHAT A SWELL PARTY! IS THAT GIGANTIC CAKE FOR ME? GOLLY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PETE

THE TWO LEGIONNAIRES [illegible]

YES [illegible]

WE SHALL FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!

GO TO THE SUPER-HERO CLUB MEETING IN THE FUTURE, EXPLAIN YOU'RE ROBOTS, AND SIT IN FOR US!

[illegible]

BY A TWIST OF FATE, BOTH OF US HAD THE PART OF OUR TAPES DAMAGED WHICH INSTRUCTED US TO REVEAL WE WERE ROBOTS!

LEGIONNAIRES, NOW THAT ME HAS REGAINED HIS SUPER-POWER, SHALL WE TAKE SUN-BOY BACK INTO OUR CLUB?

[illegible]

WELCOME HOME, SUN-BOY! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE ONE OF US AGAIN!!

[illegible]

PRESENTING THE FIRST IN A NEW SERIES OF SOLO ADVENTURES OF THE [illegible]

Mary Marvel

HOLY MOLEY! I FEEL LIKE I'M CHASING ... MYSELF!

MARY MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL, IS BACK IN ACTION-- FOR CRIME TAKES NO HOLIDAYS, SO MARY DOESN'T, EITHER! AS YOU'LL LEARN IN THIS SPECIAL HOLIDAY THRILLER...

STORY— E. NELSON BRIDWELL

ART— BOB ORNER

EDITING— JULIUS SCHWARTZ

"THE THANKSGIVING THIEVES!"

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1973 -- A SPECIAL DAY FOR MARY BATSON AND HER FOSTER MOTHER, MRS. BROMFIELD...

I WISH YOU DIDN'T INSIST ON SEEING THE THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE IN PERSON, MARY!

YOU COULD JUST AS WELL WATCH IT ON TELEVISION!

BUT, MOTHER-- MARY MARVEL IS GOING TO BE THE GRAND MARSHAL! I CAN'T MISS THAT!

I KNOW YOU'RE A FAN OF HERS! NATURAL, I SUPPOSE -- SAME FIRST NAME!

BUT DO BE HOME IN TIME FOR DINNER! TURKEY AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS!

I WILL, MOTHER! 'BYE!

WOULDN'T MOTHER BE SURPRISED IF SHE KNEW **WHY** I WANT TO BE AT THE PARADE!

SHAZAM!

WHEN MARY SPEAKS THE NAME OF THE WIZARD *SHAZAM*, MAGIC LIGHTNING BLAZES DOWN TO CHANGE HER INTO...

...*MARY MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL!*

HAVE TO HURRY IF I'M TO GET THERE BEFORE THE PARADE STARTS!

AND SECONDS LATER, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PARADE ROUTE...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYBODY!

GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, MARY! WE'RE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU AS THIS YEAR'S **GRAND MARSHAL!**

WE EVEN HAVE A GIANT **MARY MARVEL** BALLOON IN YOUR HONOR!

HOLY MOLEY! WHAT A TRIBUTE!

THEN, AS THE PROCESSION LINES UP, ABOUT TO START...

I DON'T KNOW **WHEN** I'VE HAD SUCH A THRILL! I'LL BE THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION!

BUT WHILE MOST PEOPLE ARE GATHERING TO WATCH THE PARADE, OTHERS ARE BUSILY AT WORK... DIRTY WORK...

OKAY, LET'S DO IT! NO ONE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!

YA SURE YA CAN OPEN THE STORE WITHOUT SETTIN' OFF THE ALARM, TRICKS?

I DIDN'T GET MY NAME FOR PULLING RABBITS OUT OF HATS, SNEAK!

SEE? THIS TRICKY GIMMICK UNLOCKS THE DOOR AND DISCONNECTS THE ALARM AT THE SAME TIME!

ONLY TAKE THE MOST EXPENSIVE FURS! WE DON'T WANT TO OVERLOAD OURSELVES WITH **CHEAP** WRAPS!

MINUTES LATER...

EASIEST HEIST WE EVER PULLED, BOSS!

HURRY-- TO OUR GETAWAY CAR!

SUPPOSE THIS MARY MARVEL BUTTS INTA THE GAME? SHE'S IN THE PARADE, YA KNOW ... STARTIN' A BLOCK FROM HERE!

SO WHAT? SHE'S ONLY A GIRL!

THAT'S RIGHT-- **ONLY** A GIRL! ONE WHO SPOTTED YOU ROBBING THAT STORE FROM MY HIGH PERCH ON THE FRONT FLOAT!

WANT TO SEE HOW MUCH THAT **ONLY** IS WORTH?

:ULP!: SHE'S TAKEN THE WHEELS OFF OUR CAR!

THEY SAY SHE'S CAPTAIN MARVEL'S SISTER!

NO DAME COULD BE AS TOUGH AS HE IS!

SHOW HIM, BRUISER!

NO PARKING

MY PLEASURE, BOSS!

YA SEE THIS HEAVY SIGN?

NO PARKING

WATCH ME FLATTEN HER WITH IT!

NOW, IF SHE WAS AS TOUGH AS CAPTAIN MARVEL, SHE'D STILL BE STANDIN' THERE, SMILIN'-- RIGHT?

D-D-DON'T LOCK NOW, B-BUT...

DON'T TELL ME SHE'S STILL STANDIN' THERE, SMILIN'?!

SHE'S STILL STANDIN' THERE, SMILIN'!

I SAID DON'T TELL ME!

WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP! I BETCHA BULLETS BOUNCE OFF HER, TOO!

BUT THIS TRICK-GUN DOESN'T SHOOT BULLETS!

LET'S SEE HER NAB US WITH SMOKE IN HER EYES!

COME ON, BOYS! "MARY MARVEL" IS GOING TO HELP US ESCAPE!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE THIEVES ARE IN A BASKET ATTACHED TO THE GIANT BALLOON...

A SNIP OF THE CABLES WITH MY TRICKY EXTENSION SHEARS...

♪ ♪ ♪ .. AND OFF WE GO ... INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER! ♪

HOLY MOLEY!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WIND UP *CHASING MYSELF!*

WOW! SHE FLIES, TOO!

LET'S SEE HOW **HOT LEAD** AFFECTS HER!

SEE?.. IT BOUNCES OFF -- LIKE I SAID!

YIKES! THE BULLETS BOUNCED THROUGH THE BALLOON!

IT'S BUSTED!

WE'RE GONNA FALL!

HELP! THIS IS ONE THING I DON'T HAVE A TRICK FOR!

SO GUESS WHO'S GOING TO SAVE YOU?

ONLY A GIRL -- WHO FINDS THIS A CONVENIENT "SHOPPING BAG"...

...TO CARRY YOU TO THE POLICE STATION!

POLICE STATION

AND AS THE PARADE GETS UNDER WAY...

IT'S A SHAME THE **MARY MARVEL BALLOON** WAS DESTROYED!

WHO CARES? WE HAVE THE **REAL MARY MARVEL** INSTEAD!

TOO BAD MY BROTHER BILLY AND FREDDY FREEMAN COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY!

BUT WE'LL ALL GET TOGETHER ON **CHRISTMAS**, AT MR. MORRIS'S PARTY!

6

PROLOGUE

A SMALL, STRUGGLING FIGURE CLAWS ITS WAY UP THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE ABOVE DALTONGANJ IN NOTHERN INDIA. OVER THE RISE LIES THE SMALL MOUNTAIN TOWN OF KRU. HIS DESTINATION...

WITH EVERY STEP HE NEARER SLAYS THE DESOLATE TOWN--SOUND MADE SHUTTERED-UP HOUSES HIDE THE TOWNSPEOPLE FROM THE MENACING--MAN WITH NO FACE!...

FINALLY A LONE TOWNSMAN VENTURES OUT-- ALL TOO SLOW TO DETECT THE STALKER ON HIS WAY...

THE FACELESS MAN [illegible] FURTHER UP THE [illegible] TO THE [illegible] AND WIZENED OLD MAN WAITING BEFORE [illegible]

W/ TREMBLING FINGERS THE OLD MAN REACHES TO HIS TREASURE--HIS STUTTERING TONGUE EXPLAINS ITS PROPERTIES. BUT OF THESE THINGS THE FACELESS MAN ALREADY HAS KNOWLEDGE!

ALL IS IN READINESS FOR HIS POSSESSION!

THEN COMES FLIGHT... AND A FUTILE ATTEMPT BY THE ENRAGED CONTAINERS TO ABORT IT!...

DAYS LATER, DUE TO HIS WEAKENED CONDITION, THE TREACHEROUS TIDE TURNS. IT'S THE CLONE'S ESPER POWER TO LOCATE A SOURCE OF MYSTICAL ENERGY...

WHY DID THE CLONE FOCUS ON A DRIFTER? SURELY HE CAN'T BE THE SOURCE OF SUCH AWESOME ENERGY?...

THERE IT IS! THAT BULLET! IT'S RADIATING TREMENDOUS POWER! NOW--TO TRANSMIT THAT ENERGY TO ME--

THE BULLET--IS DISSOLVING... NO!..NO! IT CAN'T BE...NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE!

CHAPTER I

HARBINGER OF DEATH!

GET BACK! GET BACK! WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GONE CRAZY!

MAN, IT'S RIPPING UP EVERYTHING IN SIGHT! LET'S GET THE BLAZES OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT STOMPS US!

6½

PLEASE LET US THROUGH! WE'RE THE POLICE!

IN TIMES PAST, THE SIGHT OF THE SPECTRE HAS SIGNALED JUSTICE AND RETRIBUTION--SWIFT AND HARSH--TO THOSE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW! BUT CAN HE HAVE THAT SAME EFFECT ON LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE? CAN IT BE THAT THE NAME OF...

"THE SPECTRE means DEATH?"

STORY & ART BY: NEAL ADAMS

LEADING THE POLICE DETACHMENT IS CAPT. JIM CORRIGAN--IN WHOSE BODY IS HOUSED THE GRIM **SPECTRE**, GUARDIAN OF GOOD...

TOO MANY PEOPLE! WE CAN'T USE OUR GUNS!

SPECTRE! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

I'M ON MY WAY, J.W.! SEE IF YOU CAN GET THOSE PEOPLE BACK!

AT THE SIGHT OF **THE SPECTRE**, AN EXPRESSION OF FEAR CROSSES THE GLOWING FEATURES OF THE COLOSSAL CREATURE...

THE CROWD MIRRORS THE FEAR SEEN ON THE MONSTER'S FACE WHEN THEY TOO SPOT THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN

A... GHOST!

N-NO--NOT A **GHOST!** IT LOOKS LIKE...LIKE... **DEATH!**

THE SPECTRE OF DEATH! AND--IT'S COMING AFTER ME! **AGGGH...**

LIKE A WAVE, BLIND PANIC GRIPS THE CROWD--AND AS ONE THEY TURN AND RUN--SCREAMING AND CLAWING--TO GET AWAY FROM THE DREADFUL APPARITION OF **THE SPECTRE**...

HE'S GONNA GET ME! STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY!

AGGGHH!

NO! NO! NO!

I'VE ALWAYS DREADED THIS WOULD HAPPEN---THIS COLLECTIVE PANIC AT THE SIGHT OF ME! I'LL HAVE TO STOP TIME FOR A FEW MOMENTS TO SAVE THEM FROM THEMSELVES!

THE VENGEANCE OF THE SPECTRE IS NOT FOR SUCH INNOCENTS AS THESE.

...AND MY HARSH JUDGMENT WILL NOT BE SERVED UNLESS I UNDO ALL THAT I HAVE DONE THIS PAST MOMENT!

NOW TO REGRESS THEIR MINDS BACK TO THE INSTANT BEFORE THEY SAW ME --SO THEY WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

WHEN TIME BEGINS AGAIN, EVERYONE BUT JIM CORRIGAN HAS FORGOTTEN THOSE BRIEF SECONDS WHEN THE SPECTRE HAD APPEARED...

YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY-- FOR A WHILE THERE I WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING! NOW-- I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THE DEVIL I WAS SCARED OF!

THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME...EXCEPT I'VE ALSO FORGOTTEN WHAT I CAME TO THE STORE TO BUY! CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT! I'D BETTER CALL MY WIFE!

LOOKS LIKE "BRIGHT EYES" WASN'T STOPPED BY YOUR TWO-FISTED POWER, SPEC!

STRANGE! DID I WIPE OUT MORE OF HIS MEMORY THAN I INTENDED?

IT'S HARD TO SAY HOW IT HAPPENED. SOMETIMES EVEN I...

"BRIGHT EYES," AS YOU CALL HIM DOESN'T WORRY ME AS MUCH AS THE REACTION OF THE CROWD TO MYSELF! I REALIZE IN NO CARY GRANT, BUT THAT I WOULD ENGENDER SUCH STARK TERROR, IS BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION!

LOOK, SPEC... YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, YOU'RE NO CARY GRANT NOW LET'S GET BACK ON THE CASE, ARE YOU GOING TO GET AFTER THIS CHARACTER?

I WISH I COULD, BUT HE LEFT NO TRAIL -- PHYSICAL OR NON-PHYSICAL...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT... HE'S TOO BIG NOT TO BE NOTICED! HE'LL TURN UP SOONER OR...

CAPTAIN TORR CAN HARDLY BE SPOTTED ON HIS OUTFIT IS JUST THE RAGE ON OUTSIDE OF TOWN!

I'LL CIRCLE AROUND I MAY SPOT HIM BY HIS BODY HEAT...

THERE HE IS! I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME.

SHOPPING CENTER

AS BEFORE, FEAR FILLS THE HEARTS OF THE SHOPPERS AS THE RAGING CENTAUR... AND A MOMENT LATER THE SCENE OF THE DESTRUCTION...

CROWDS AGAIN, AND ONCE MORE THE SIGHT OF ME BRINGS TERROR TO THEIR EYES! TOO LATE TO MAKE MYSELF INVISIBLE...

A JOLT OF TIME-SUSPENSION WILL STOP THEM FROM CAUSING HARM TO THEMSELVES!

NOW TO SEE HOW THIS *THING* CAN TAKE PUNISHMENT!

WELL, SO MUCH FOR *THAT!* I MUST FIND OUT IF *ANYTHING* AFFECTS HIM!

I'LL FIRE CANNON BALLS OF EVERY KNOWN ELEMENT...PLUS A FEW UNKNOWN ONES--AT HIM! ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO DO SOME DAMAGE!

?!? FANTASTIC... NOTHING HAPPENED!... FEELING WEAKER MYSELF...

WELL...IF **MATTER** CANNOT AFFECT HIM--THEN **ANTI-MATTER** SHOULD DO IT!

INCREDIBLE!. ..T HAD **NO EFFECT** WHATSOEVER! EVEN **I** AM AFFECTED TO SOME DEGREE BY **ANTI-MATTER!** WHAT COULD HE BE COMPOSED OF?

ALL RIGHT--THE **HARD** WAY! I'LL ENLARGE MYSELF TO SUIT YOU--AND WE'LL HAVE IT OUT!

FOOL! LOOK BEHIND YOU!!

WHAT?! MY TIME-SUSPENSION **SHOULD HAVE** LASTED LONGER THAN THAT!... COULD HE HAVE ...**NO...!** I DETECT NO INTERFERENCE!

WAIT, STOP... YOU'LL HARM YOURSELVES. !

WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS...

ITS **DEATH!** IT'S **DEATH!!** WE'RE DOOMED!

NO!!

GO AHEAD ORESTES ...FREEZE EM IN TIME AGAIN. THEY... MAKE EVEN GET TEN TARGETS!

HELP...!

GOT TO GET AWAY...!

AY'EEE...!

CHAPTER II

I HAVE ONLY AN INSTANT TO SHIFT THOSE PEOPLE INTO ANOTHER TIME-CYCLE UNTIL THE DANGER IS PAST...

...IF THAT STRANGE FEELING OF WEARINESS AGAIN STARTING TO GET TO ME...

SPECTRE

FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE!

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"BRIGHT EYES" IS GETTING AWAY AGAIN! I'LL TAKE AFTER HIM AS SOON AS I RETURN THESE PEOPLE TO THEIR NORMAL TIME-CYCLE...UH...SOMETHING WENT WRONG...

THREE OF THE PEOPLE ARE MISSING--!

IN MY WEAKENED CONDITION, I MUST HAVE DISPATCHED THEM TOO FAR INTO THE PAST! GOT TO SEEK THEM OUT!

INTO THE SWIRLING MISTS OF TIME THE **SPECTRAL SLEUTH** HURLS HIMSELF, ALONG MULTI-CHRONAL TRAILS THAT EBB AND FLOW WITH THE VICISSITUDES OF TIME...

BACK TO COLONIAL AMERICA! TO THE ERA WHEN FRICTION BETWEEN INDIAN AND SETTLER WAS AT ITS... KEENEST...

THERE'S ONE OF THEM.. ABOUT TO BE RIDDEN DOWN BY THOSE BRAVES!

...WISH I COULD CONCENTRATE HARDER...

BULL'S-EYE! THIS STORY OF THE VANISHING WHITE MAN SHOULD MAKE STRANGE TELLING AROUND YOUR COUNCIL FIRE TONIGHT, BRAVES!

NOW INTO THE C-RONA! WETS AGAIN...

WITH WANING STRENGTH, THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN TRACKS DOWN THE TWO REMAINING PERSONS DISPLACED IN TIME...

HOW COULD I HAVE SENT THEM BACK THIS FAR? HAVE I THAT LITTLE CONTROL OVER MY POWERS? OR AM I LOSING THEM COMPLETELY?

FINALLY, BACK TO THE VERY DAWN OF HISTORY...

THEN I MUST REST UP IN JIM'S BODY!

AH..THERE THEY ARE... SAFE AND SOUND! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH TO GET THEM BACK!

-SAFE- NO...NO!

EEEEEE!!

THAT FEARFUL LOOK AGAIN!? I'LL SHIFT THEM BACK TO THEIR OWN TIME AND THEN CONCERN MYSELF ABOUT IT!

AS HE SPIRITS AWAY WITH HIS CHARGES...

I JUST REALIZED THEY WEREN'T LOOKING AT ME--BUT OVER MY HEAD! I WONDER WHY...

SEEP

ROWL

GREAT COSMOS! I BROUGHT A TYRANNOSAURUS BACK WITH ME AND—UHNNG THERE'S THAT WEAKNESS AGAIN!

...FEEL LIKE A HUMAN WHO HASN'T SLEPT FOR A WEEK...! BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT PREHISTORIC MENACE...SOMEHOW!

A TRYANNOSAURUS REX! LOOK... LOOK, MOMMY!

JIMMY, GET AWAY! RUN!!

TRY TO DISTRACT HIM...

YIIIII! A MONSTER!

A DRAGON!

FLASHING ACROSS THE MESAZOIC MONSTER'S FACE OF HATRED THE DISEMBODIED DARE-DEVIL TAUNTS HIM...

HERE, BIG BOY! OVER THIS WAY! TAKE A BITE OUT OF OLD UNCLE SPEC!

WITH A BLUR OF MOTION THIS PREHISTORIC COLOSSUS LASHES OUT.

OOOOOHH! THAT HURT...MY REFLEXES TOO SLOW TO DEAL WITH THIS! I'LL HAVE TO RISK USING MY EBBING POWERS...

"BRIGHT EYES" AGAIN?! BUT WHY DOES HE LOOK FRIGHTENED?...

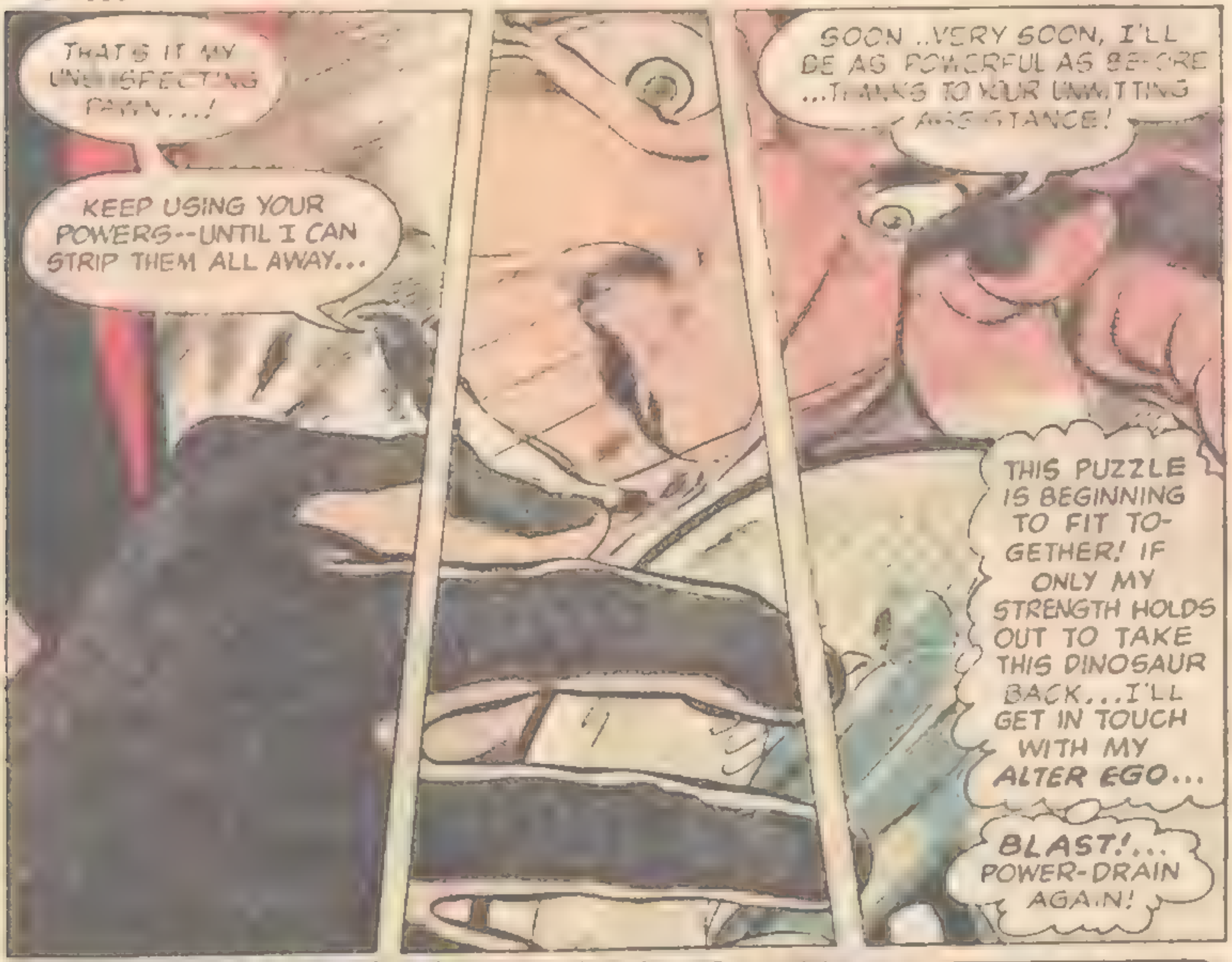
THE PEOPLE... THERE'S FEAR ON THEIR FACES TOO! FEAR OF ME! I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY PANIC!

IT'S DEATH, COME TO GET US!

SAWOFFF! ONCE AGAIN THAT DRAIN ON MY POWERS! THIS SIZE-SHRINKING MAYSINER... EXHAUSTING...

FOOL! DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE REAL DANGER?

BACK NOW TO **THE SPECTRE**, HIS FRENZIED EFFORTS ARE BEING OBSERVED WITH UNBOUNDED GLEE...


THAT IS IT MY UNSUSPECTING PAWN...!
KEEP USING YOUR POWERS--UNTIL I CAN STRIP THEM ALL AWAY...
SOON ..VERY SOON, I'LL BE AS POWERFUL AS BEFORE ...THANKS TO YOUR UNWITTING ASSISTANCE!
THIS PUZZLE IS BEGINNING TO FIT TOGETHER! IF ONLY MY STRENGTH HOLDS OUT TO TAKE THIS DINOSAUR BACK...I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH MY ALTER EGO...
BLAST!... POWER-DRAIN AGAIN!

FOLLOWING **THE SPECTRE'S** DEPARTURE, THE POLICE MANAGE TO CALM THE TERRIFIED THRONG AND SEND THEM SAFELY ON THEIR WAY! AND BY THE TIME **JIM CORRIGAN** HAS ARRIVED FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

KEEP IT MOVING, FOLKS! THE DANGER'S OVER..
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FRIGHTENED! ...IT WAS HORRIBLE!
EASY, HONEY... LIKE THE OFFICER SAID...THE DANGER IS PAST!
OKAY, CHIEF...IF YOU SAY SO! IT HAS TO BE DONE!
PSST, JIM...!

SPECTRE! YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN!
SHHH, JIM...QUIET! I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE ME...AND TRIGGER OFF ANOTHER PANIC!
LISTEN I NEED A REST... JUST A SHORT ONE! I'M GOING TO ENTER YOUR BODY...

UH-UH! NOTHING DOING!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR COMEDY, JIM! I'M COMPLETELY WORN OUT! I NEED REVITALIZATION!

OKAY, SPEC...ON ONE CONDITION! YOUR **PROMISE** THAT YOU WON'T LEAVE MY BODY AGAIN... **EVER!**

YOU'RE NOT TALKING SENSE, JIM! **WHAT'S GOING ON...?**

I HAVE ORDERS TO BRING YOU IN, **SPEC!**

TO... **WHAT?!**

YOU'VE BECOME A **PUBLIC MENACE...** WHEREVER YOU SHOW UP PANIC BREAKS OUT! LUCKILY, NO ONE'S BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT **YET!** BUT YOUR PRESENCE REPRESENTS A DANGER TO PUBLIC SAFETY! SO DO YOU STAY PUT **IN MY BODY...OR IN PRISON?**

I CAN'T WASTE TIME ARGUING WITH YOU! I'M GOING TO TAKE MY REST WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT...

HUH? CAN'T PENETRATE...

ZOING

YOU'RE WEAK, **SPEC!** AND I HAVE ENOUGH **WILL POWER** TO KEEP YOU OUT TILL YOU SURRENDER TO **ME...OR THE LAW!**

IT WOULD BE TIME-WASTING TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU THAT **SOMEONE ELSE** IS CAUSING THE FEAR!

SO IF YOU WANT ME, FOLLOW ME!

SOON BY FOLLOWING THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION LEFT IN THE EERIE-EYED BEHEMOTH...

YOU!...HOLD IT! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THIS OUT RIGHT NOW...

WHILE MY WANING ABILITIES STILL GIVE ME A FAINT CHANCE OF DEFEATING YOU.

LIKE A MADDENED HORNET, THE SPECTRE FLIES INTO THE FACE OF HIS RAMSHACKLE ADVERSARY...

NEITHER MATTER NOR ANTI-MATTER HAS ANY EFFECT ON HIM...SO LET'S SEE IF A PURE ENERGY-BLAST CAN ROCK HIM!

LIKE A THING BENEATH HIS NOTICE, THE MONSTER SWATS SPECTRE WITH THE BACK OF HIS HAND...

HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO CLOSE HIS FIST TO KNOCK ME FOR A LOOP!

GOT TO THROW HIM OFF BALANCE SOMEHOW...

IN A NARROW, SWOOPING DIVE, THE GRIM GHOST CATAPULTS HIMSELF BETWEEN THE LEGS OF HIS FOE AND...

GOT TO USE THIS BREATHER TO FIND OUT WHAT HE'S COMPOSED OF...

...BY REDUCING MYSELF TO THE SIZE OF THE CELLS IN HIS BODY!

KNOWING WHAT HE'S MADE OF MAY GIVE ME A CLUE NOW TO DEFEAT HIM!

THAT'S IT, SPECTRE-- EXPEND MORE ENERGY...JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE... AND I'LL BE FREE!

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DOWN TO SIZE SMALL ENOUGH TO SEE THE VERY CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONSTER'S BODY...

I SEE IT NOW! A MYSTERIOUS SOURCE OF ENERGY IS SIMULTANEOUSLY PRODUCING PARTICLES OF MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER WITHIN HIM... CAUSING EXPLOSIONS!

NO WONDER HE CAN'T BE HURT IN ANY WAY! HE'S CONTINUALLY DESTROYING AND RECREATING HIMSELF!

LIKE THIS...

BOOM BOOM BOOM

BY SEPARATING THE MATTER-PARTICLES FROM THE ANTI-MATTER ONES AS THEY'RE BEING CREATED... I BUILD UP A STOCKPILE OF EACH... AND THEN, BRINGING BOTH PILES TOGETHER

LOOKS LIKE SPEC IS REALLY BEAT THIS TIME... HE'S LAID OUT LIKE A RAG DOLL! BUT HE DID WHAT HE SAID HE'D DO!

I WONDER WHY "BRIGHT EYES" CHOSE THIS PLACE TO MAKE HIS STAND?

CHURNING UP THE ROAD, JIM CORRIGAN COMES UPON THE SCENE JUST AS HIS ALTER EGO COMPLETES HIS MISSION...

HA, HA, HA, HA!

IT'S THE PSYCHO PIRATE!

THAT EVIL MASTER OF EMOTION, WHOM DOCTOR FATE AND HOURMAN WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE PUT OUT OF COMMISSION SOME TIME AGO!

AH...DETECTIVE CORRIGAN... I SEE YOU KNOW OF ME! THEN PERHAPS YOU ALSO KNOW OF THE MAGIC MASK WHICH DOCTOR FATE PUT ON ME, TO DENY ME MY POWERS!

THANKS TO THE HELP OF THE SPECTRE, THAT CURSED MASK-- MY SYMBOL OF DEFEAT --IS GONE FOREVER!

IT WAS YOU... YOU WHO WERE DRAINING ME OF MY POWERS! USING MY MYSTIC FORCES TO DISSOLVE YOUR PRISON-MASK! BUT... HOW?

WITH THIS GLOBE, MY HELPLESS FRIEND! IT HAS THE ABILITY TO FOCUS IN ON MYSTIC POWERS AND DRAW THEM TO WHOMEVER ACTIVATES IT!

BUT NOW, I NO LONGER NEED ITS MYSTIC MAGNETISM --FOR MY POWER HAS BEEN FULLY RESTORED! THE MOST FANTASTIC POWER OF ALL... COMPLETE CONTROL OF HUMAN EMOTIONS!

A LOTTA GOOD YOUR "POWER" WILL DO YOU IN SOLITARY!

RASH IDIOT! YOU HAVEN'T AN INKLING OF MY STRENGTH!.. TRY A DOSE OF FEAR!

LIKE A STORM, FEAR RAGES THROUGH CORRIGAN--AS WELL AS THE WEAKENED SPECTRE...

DON'T COME NEAR ME... NO!

N-NO! NO! S-STAY AWAY, PL-PLEASE! I--I'LL DO ANYTHING! J-JUST STAY AWAY!

HA! I CAN MOLD YOUR EMOTIONS LIKE PUTTY! EVEN THE MIGHTY SPECTRE, WHOSE POWERS CAME TO ME ALL TOO RELUCTANTLY!

WITH THE LAST POWER IN HIS BEING HE TURNS TO THE CRUMPLED FIGURE GROVELING AT HIS FEET, THE PSYCHO PIRATE CAN HARDLY RESIST GLOATING OVER HIS TRIUMPH...

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE GLOBE WOULD BE OF NO USE TO ME.

THE RIGHT POWER STRIKE LED ME TO A PULSATING BULLET FROM A GUN THIS DRIFTER HAD FOUND SOMEWHERE...

PULSATING BULLET?! IT MUST BE THE ONE I ALMOST GOT INTO AZMODUS MONTHS AGO! I LOST THE GUN IN THE SCUFFLE AND THAT DRIFTER MUST HAVE COME ACROSS IT!

BUT AS I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE USE OF THE BULLET, IT WAS ABSORBED BY HIS BODY AND TURNED HIM INTO THE MINDLESS BUT **CONTROLLABLE** BRUTE YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO DESTROY!

THROUGH HIM I WAS ABLE TO USE A **SMALL** PART OF MY EMOTION-CONTROLLING ABILITY, CAUSING PEOPLE TO **FEAR** YOU!

UHHHH

AHHHH, MY FAITHFUL MINION! YOU'VE SERVED ME WELL...AND SHALL CONTINUE TO DO SO!

PICK UP THAT GUN AND KEEP THOSE TWO PITIFUL SPECIMENS COVERED WHILE I PUT THE GLOBE IN A SAFE PLACE!

SURE...WHATEVER YOU SAY! YOU'RE THE BOSS!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAKE YOUR WORK EASY! GET RID OF THE LAWMAN!

IT SHOULD BE A FEATHER IN ANY CROOK'S HAT TO BUMP OFF DETECTIVE-CAPTAIN JIM CORRIGAN!

J...JIM CORRIGAN?! IT... **CAN'T** BE! I KILLED HIM... **TWENTY YEARS AGO!**

THE DRIFTER...**GAT BENSON!** THE MAN WHO "KILLED" ME AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR **THE SPECTRE** TO EXIST!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME KILL HIM... OVER AGAIN!

CRASH

YOU BLUNDERING FOOL! **YOU FOOL!!**

INSTANTLY, UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE BURNS ITS WAY ACROSS THE FEATURES OF THE **EMIR OF EMOTIONS!**...

SIMULTANEOUSLY, **RAGE** ETCHES ONTO THE FACE OF JIM CORRIGAN AS HE FURIOUSLY HURLS HIMSELF AT THE **EMOTION MASTER**...

WITH HAIR-TRIGGER REFLEXES, HE SMASHED INTO HIS SURPRISED FOES...

KA-POW!

AND NOT UNTIL AN UNCONSCIOUS CALM REGISTERS ON THE **PSYCHO PIRATE'S** FACE DOES JIM CORRIGAN'S RAGE SUBSIDE...

GOT TO GET **SPECTRE** TO LOOK AT **PSYCHO'S** PLACID PUSS...OR THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG HE'LL LAY THERE, QUAKING IN FEAR!

C'MON, FRAIDY CAT! IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

NO, JIM... **NO!** PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME GO NEAR HIM...I'M AFRAID ...I'M **AFRAID!**

THANKS, JIM!

NOW...HOW ABOUT THAT **REST** I NEED...?

·THE END·

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES:

Last issue we brought you the first Legion story in their long-running series from ADVENTURE COMICS, and this issue we continue with our chronological reprinting of all the Legion epics with their second and third series appearances. In a way, both of the stories in this issue represent the beginning of a transition from the Legionnaires as guest-stars to heroes in their own right.

"The Secret Origin of Bouncing Boy" is similar to the Legion's many guest-appearances in that it really only features one hero from the team. However, it's much more like the series would be in the future because it begins to establish the mythos of the world around the Legion. Inconsistencies still abound (the time is identified as the 21st century, not the 30th; only one Legionnaire is supposedly admitted each year yet we've seen on many occasions two or three join) but it all begins to come together.

The use of hi-tech gimmicks, be they as old-fashioned as the "dupli-writing stylus," has remained a hallmark of the series, as had the "casting calls" for membership which portrayed known rejects for the first time in this story. Most importantly, we see the Mission Monitor Board in its first incarnation, and see members on other missions for the first time. In fact, the whole set-up of the story, the retelling of an origin to applicants, has been reused as recently as LEGION #283 for Wildfire's origin.

(P.S.—the applicant at the far right in the last panel was Matter-Eater Lad, not yet in his final costume, who joined the Legion as their next member two issues later in a story we'll reprint next month.)

Writer Jerry Siegel and artist John Forte, the team that did both these stories (and all of the first half-dozen series tales), went on to "Sun Boy's Lost Power", a much more developed Legion story. The emphasis in this story is much more on puzzle than action, but we do watch the team interact and get a better sense of their relationship to each other. The twelve/thirteen page format left very little room to use the team to its fullest, and they would see very little "action" for the next several months until the page length increased in #309.

Common to these two stories, and most early Legion tales, is that each one taught us more about one or more of the characters. The 30th century was so obviously rich in imaginative concepts, origins, villains and technology, that only a fraction of it could be doled out each month without interfering with the stories. The writers therefore paced themselves, and went deeper and deeper into each element in turn... Mon-El in #300, Bouncing Boy in #301, Sun Boy in #302, and coming up next month, Matter-Eater Lad and Brainiac Five in #303 and Saturn Girl in #304, one of the all-time classic tales in Legion history.

We'd learn more about the characters in time, too, even after they had their shot in the spotlight. Long-time Legion readers know that Doctor Zaxton Regulus was the man who locked Sun Boy into the reactor where he gained his powers, and that the same Dr. Regulus returned to battle the Legion many times. But that was first revealed in ADVENTURE #348, so I guess we're getting ahead of ourselves.

—Paul Levitz

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